

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2003
for internal students

Philosophy of Language

Candidates should answer THREE of the following questions. Please avoid overlap in your answers.

1. What exactly is the relationship between truth and meaning?
2. 'Accounting for the meaning of words and other sub-sentential components is the ultimate stumbling block for the Gricean programme.' Discuss.
3. 'Metaphors do not have any special kind of content beyond their literal content.' Discuss.
4. What does Quine mean by his claim that translation is 'indeterminate'? Is the claim true? If so, what consequences does it have for our understanding of meaning?
5. 'If a sentence has not been used more than once, there can be no regularity or convention for its use. Hence, analyses of sentence-meaning in terms of conventions or regularities are wrong.' Discuss.
6. If Fred says 'Peter believes that Hesperus is a planet', does 'Hesperus' might refer to:
(i) Peter's way of thinking of Hesperus, (ii) Fred's way of thinking of Hesperus, (iii) the audience's way of thinking of Hesperus, (iv) none of (i)-(iii)? Choose an option and show how your choice solves the problems for semantic theories raised by propositional attitude ascriptions.
7. How, if at all, can someone say something true by uttering 'The table is covered with books' in a world of many tables?
8. 'There are many types of non-indexical sentences utterances of which have different truth-conditions in different conversational contexts. Truth-conditional semantic theories are therefore doomed.' Discuss.
9. Expound and assess what you take to be the best account of the semantics of interrogatives.
10. What does 'water' mean?

TURN

OVER

11. 'Without a solution to Kripke's paradox about rule-following there can be no account of word-meaning.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER