

ABSTRACTS FROM *SYNTHESE*

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SUBJECTS, SPEAKERS, AND ROLES

CHARLES J. FILLMORE

A survey of issues in syntactic and semantic theory in which it is proposed that the Chomskyan program be modified and enriched so as to incorporate 'deep-structure cases' and an apparatus for relating sentences to their presuppositions.

DEEP STRUCTURE AS LOGICAL FORM

GILBERT HARMAN

TROUBLES ABOUT ACTIONS

J. A. FODOR

SOME PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE LOGIC OF GRAMMATICAL MODIFIERS

TERENCE PARSONS

PROPER NAMES AND IDENTIFYING DESCRIPTIONS

KEITH S. DONNELLAN

The paper argues that a principle held by many philosophers about how proper names refer, the principle of "identifying descriptions," is false. The principle claims, roughly, that the user(s) of a proper name must be, in some broad sense, able to supply descriptions of the referent and that the name's referent is that entity which uniquely fits best this "backing of descriptions." The paper attacks the principle in three ways: by direct counter-examples, by questioning the possibility that users of a name can supply such descriptions, and by proposing that the referent is discovered sometimes in other ways. The latter point gives rise to something like a positive view of how names refer: What we ask is, "To what would the speaker be attributing this predicate on this occasion?", and, while the answer will often be found from the descriptions the speaker gives of the referent, it is possible to answer the question through knowledge not available to him about the speaker and his relationship to some person or thing.

OPACITY, COREFERENCE, AND PRONOUNS

BARBARA HALL PARTEE

METHODOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON CURRENT LINGUISTIC THEORY

W. V. QUINE

SEMANTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY: A PARABLE

DANA SCOTT (Ed.)

A somewhat fictionalized account of several interpretations of implication is presented together with comparisons between classical, modal, tense, and intuitionistic logics.

THE SEMANTICS OF MODAL NOTIONS AND THE INDETERMINACY OF ONTOLOGY

JAAKO HINTIKKA

INFERENCE AND SELF-REFERENCE

BAS C. VAN FRAASSEN

ANALYTIC/SYNTHETIC AND SEMANTIC THEORY

LEONARD LINSKY

ON THE SEMANTICS OF THE OUGHT-TO-DO

HECTOR-NERI CASTAÑEDA

The standard approach to deontic logic treats deontic modalities as operators on propositions that yield propositions. Semantically, on that approach a deontic proposition of the form "It is obligatory that p " is true in a world W if and only if p is true in all ideal or perfect worlds with respect to W . In this paper, Castañeda claims that the standard approach may be suited for the Ought-To-Be, but is not suited for the Ought-To-Do, the latter being the type of deontic modality present in ordinary rules, statutes, laws, and moral principles. He engages in a phenomenological analysis of ordinary deontic discourse which reveals that: (i) prescriptions are the units of practical thinking, just as propositions are the units of theoretical thinking; (ii) deontic statements of the Ought-To-Do type are propositions resulting from the operation of deontic modalities to prescriptions; (iii) mixed connective compounds of propositions and prescriptions are prescriptions. He then gives an argument to show that a large set of ordinary prescriptions is two-valued and has a logic parallel to the logic of propositions. He proposes a semantics for his old axiomatic system that embodies (i)–(iii). This nonstandard semantics provides an analysis of the basic structure of legislative systems as well as of the acts of legislation.

THE ROLE OF INDUCTIVE REASONING IN THE INTERPRETATION OF METAPHOR

L. JONATHAN COHEN AND AVISHAI MARGALIT

Metaphorical meaning is to be regarded as a phenomenon of *langue*, not of *parole*. If an ideal dictionary is viewed as a set of heavily qualified inductive hypotheses, an appropriate theory of semantic composition, based on a categorial grammar of the base structure, can explicate metaphorical meaning by showing just how the meanings of lexical items are altered under the process of semantic composition.

A PROGRAM FOR SYNTAX

P. T. GEACH

GENERAL SEMANTICS

DAVID LEWIS

If we may assume that any natural language may be given a transformational grammar having as its base a categorial grammar (in approximately the sense of Ajdukiewicz), then it becomes possible to give a simple and general account of the semantics of natural languages. Take the intension of a sentence, name, or common noun to be a function from possible words, etc., to truth-values, things, or sets; take the intension of something that attaches to a term of category X to form a compound term of category Y to be a function from intensions for X 's to intensions for Y 's.

PRAGMATICS AND INTENSIONAL LOGIC

RICHARD MONTAGUE

A precise model-theoretic treatment of indexical (or context-dependent) discourse is given, as well as a simple system of intensional logic capable of accommodating indirect discourse and quantification into it. Some connections between the two systems are explored.

PROBABILISTIC GRAMMARS FOR NATURAL LANGUAGES

PATRICK SUPPES

ON THE FRAME OF REFERENCE

JOHN WALLACE

LINGUISTICS AND NATURAL LOGIC

GEORGE LAKOFF

PRAGMATICS

ROBERT C. STALNAKER

This paper is the sketch of a theory of *formal pragmatics*—a theory which uses methods analogous to logical syntax and formal semantics to study linguistic acts and the contexts in which they are performed. Some basic concepts of semantics and pragmatics, for example the notions of possible world, context, and presupposition, are introduced and explained. Then these concepts are used to account for a kind of ambiguity that cannot be explained in purely semantic terms.