Free epub Paperbackby eli rozik generating theatre meaning a theory and methodology of performance analysis theatre studies [PDF]

selected writings concerned with a central theme in recent philosophy the problem of the nature and criteria of meaning this is a book about aristotle s philosophy of language interpreted in a framework that provides a comprehensive interpretation of aristotle s metaphysics philosophy of mind epistemology and science the aims of the book are to explicate the description of meaning contained in de interpretatione and to show the relevance of that theory of meaning to much of the rest of arisotle s philosophy in the process deborah modrak reveals how that theory of meaning has been much maligned brian g slocum s ordinary meaning offers an extended legal linguistic analysis of the eponymous interpretive doctrine a centuries old consensus exists among courts and legal scholars that words in legal texts should be interpreted in light of accepted standards of communication therefore the questions of what makes some meaning the ordinary one and how the determinants of ordinary meaning are identified and conceptualized are of crucial importance to the interpretation of legal texts arguing against reliance on acontextual dictionary definitions ordinary meaning rigorously explores the contributions that specific context makes to meaning along with linguistic phenomena such as indexicals and quantifiers slocum provides a theory and a robust general framework for how the determinants of ordinary meaning should be identified and developed this book is concerned with those aspects of the theory of meaning for scientific terms that are relevant to questions about the evaluation of scientific theories the contemporary debate about theory choice in science is normally presented as a conflict between two sets of ideas on the one hand are notions of objectivity realism rationality and progress in science on the other is the view that meanings depend on theory with associated claims about the theory dependence of observation the theoretical context account of meaning incommensurability and so on the book shows that there is no real contest here that the two sets of ideas are in fact quite compatible more specifically it argues

that the meanings of all scientific terms including those used to report observations are inseparable from the total context of surrounding theory and so will inevitably vary with theoretical change but that this is quite consistent with a broadly objectivist account of science the first half of the book shows how ideas about the theory dependence of observation and meaning have led to the breakdown of the traditional empiricist account of science and how some of the more obvious responses to these ideas are inadequate the second half shows how these ideas can satisfactorily be accommodated within a non relativist account of science published in 1998 this book argues that in recent decades anglo american philosophy of language has been captivated by the idea that the key to progress in this area of philosophy lies in investigating the possibility of constructing a theory of meaning this text provides an in depth critique of the davidsonian suggestion that tarski s work on formal definitions of truth is an important element in allowing us to understand the form that the theory of meaning should take the philosophy of language is not an isolated philosophical discipline of merely technical interest to other philosophers rather as mark platts shows the philosophy of language can help to solve traditional problems in other areas of philosophy such as metaphysics epistemology and ethics ways of meaning provides a clear comprehensive introduction to such issues at the forefront of philosophy assuming only minimum knowledge of elementary formal logic the book shows how taking truth as the central notion in the theory of meaning can clarify the relations between language reality and knowledge and thus illuminate the nature of each this second edition of the book contains a new chapter on the notions of natural kind words and natural kinds unlike other discussions of the subject this one places the semantic issues involved in the context of questions about the relations between knowing subjects and known objects the author has also added a bibliography of further readings published since the first edition appeared in 1979 a direct successor to searle s speech acts c u p 1969 expression and meaning refines earlier analyses and extends speech act theory to new areas including indirect and figurative discourse metaphor and fiction the four essays that make up this volume are based upon and expand the lectures ricoeur delivered at texas christian university 27 30 november 1973 as their centennial lectures they may be read as separate essays but they may also be read as step by step approximations of a solution to a single problem that of understanding language at the level of such productions as poems narratives and essays whether literary or philosophical in other words the central problem at stake in these four essays is that of works in particular that of language as a work in this work i

have tried to present husseri s philosophy of thinking and meaning in as clear a manner as i can in doing this i had in mind a two fold purpose i wanted on the one hand to disentangle what i have come to regard as the central line of thought from the vast mass of details of the logische unter suchungen and the formale und transzendentale logik on the other hand i tried to take into consideration the immense developments in logic and semantics that have taken place since husseri s major logical studies were published it is my belief that no one to day can look back upon the philosophers of the past except in the light of the admirable progress achieved and consolidated in the fields of logic and semantics in recent times fortunately enough from this point of view husseri fares remarkably well he certainly anticipated many of those recent investigations what is more a true understanding and appraisal of his logical studies is not possible except in the light of the corresponding modern investigations this last consider ation may provide us with some explanation of the rather puzzling fact that orthodox husseriian scholarship both within and outside germany has not accorded to his logical studies the central importance that they from all points of view unmis takeably deserve the tradition descending from frege and russell has typically treated theories of meaning either as theories of meanings propositions expressed or as theories of truth conditions however propositions of the classical sort don t exist and truth conditions can t provide all the information required by a theory of meaning in this book one of the world s leading philosophers of language offers a way out of this dilemma traditionally conceived propositions are denizens of a third realm beyond mind and matter grasped by mysterious platonic intuition as conceived here they are cognitive event types in which agents predicate properties and relations of things in using language in perception and in nonlinguistic thought because of this one s acquaintance with and knowledge of propositions is acquaintance with and knowledge of events of one s cognitive life this view also solves the problem of the unity of the proposition by explaining how propositions can be genuinely representational and therefore bearers of truth the problem in the traditional conception is that sentences utterances and mental states are representational because of the relations they bear to inherently representational platonic complexes of universals and particulars since we have no way of understanding how such structures can be representational independent of interpretations placed on them by agents the problem is unsolvable when so conceived however when propositions are taken to be cognitive event types the order of explanation is reversed and a natural solution emerges propositions are representational because they are constitutively

related to inherently representational cognitive acts strikingly original what is meaning is a major advance this volume includes contributions from well known philosophers of language and semanticists it is a useful collection for students in philosophy of language semantics and epistemology it discusses new research in semantics theory of truth philosophy of language and theory of communication from a trans disciplinary perspective and addresses issues such as sentence meaning utterance meaning speaker s intention and reference linguistic context circumstances and background theories current textbooks in formal semantics are all versions of or introductions to the same paradigm in semantic theory montague grammar knowledge of meaning is based on different assumptions and a different history it provides the only introduction to truth theoretic semantics for natural languages fully integrating semantic theory into the modern chomskyan program in linguistic theory and connecting linguistic semantics to research elsewhere in cognitive psychology and philosophy as such it better fits into a modern graduate or undergraduate program in linguistics cognitive science or philosophy furthermore since the technical tools it employs are much simpler to teach and to master knowledge of meaning can be taught by someone who is not primarily a semanticist linguistic semantics cannot be studied as a stand alone subject but only as part of cognitive psychology the authors assert it is the study of a particular human cognitive competence governing the meanings of words and phrases larson and segal argue that speakers have unconscious knowledge of the semantic rules of their language and they present concrete empirically motivated proposals about a formal theory of this competence based on the work of alfred tarski and donald davidson the theory is extended to a wide range of constructions occurring in natural language including predicates proper nouns pronouns and demonstratives quantifiers definite descriptions anaphoric expressions clausal complements and adverbs knowledge of meaning gives equal weight to philosophical empirical and formal discussions it addresses not only the empirical issues of linguistic semantics but also its fundamental conceptual questions including the relation of truth to meaning and the methodology of semantic theorizing numerous exercises are included in the book what is it for marks or sounds to have meaning and what is it for someone to mean something in producing them answering these and related questions schiffer explores communication speech acts convention and the meaning of linguistic items in this reissue of a seminal work on the foundations of meaning a new introduction takes account of recent developments and places his theory in a broader context patrick de gramont draws upon evidence from

infant observaton and linguistics as well as from information theory in order to make two related points first he demonstrates how our prevailing theories of meaning have failed to account for how we distort meaning what is meaning paul horwich presents an original philosophical theory demonstrates its richness and reconciles his theory with a rational view of meaning derived from its use thereby vindicating his standpoint by w h mccrea f r s the only justification for our concepts and system of concepts is that they serve to represent the complex of our experiences beyond this they have no legitimacy so einstein writes on page 2 of this book most present day physicists would agree and many before einstein must have held the same opinion einstein however put the opinion into practice to better purpose than any physicist before him and for einstein it evidently meant what it means for most of us today a theory is the construction of a theoretical model of the world of physics all the mathematical discussion applies to the model the model embodies the system of concepts and it serves to represent the complex of our experiences if the experience of the theoretical observer in the theoretical model can be put into satisfactory correspondence with the experi ence of the actual observer in the actual physical world classical mechanics and classical electromagnetism pro vide models that are good representations of two sets of actual experiences as einstein was the first fully to appreciate however it is not possible to combine these into a single self consistent model the construction of the simplest possible self consistent model is the achieve ment of einstein s theory of special relativity the theory is found in particular to give a satisfactory representation of the electromagnetic interaction between charged particles through its use of the concept of the electromagnetic field nondescriptive meaning and reference extends wayne davis s groundbreaking work on the foundations of semantics davis revives the classical doctrine that meaning consists in the expression of ideas and advances the expression theory by showing how it can account for standard proper names and the distinctive way their meaning determines their reference he also shows how the theory can handle interjections syncategorematic terms conventional implicatures and other cases long seen as difficult for both ideational and referential theories the expression theory is founded on the fact that thoughts are event types with a constituent structure and that thinking is a fundamental propositional attitude distinct from belief and desire thought parts ideas or concepts are distinguished from both sensory images and conceptions word meaning is defined recursively sentences and other complex expressions mean what they do in virtue of what thought parts their component words express

and what thought structure the linguistic structure expresses and unstructured words mean what they do in living languages in virtue of evolving conventions to use them to express ideas the difficulties of descriptivism show that the ideas expressed by names are atomic or basic the reference of a name is the extension of the idea it expresses which is determined not by causal relations but by its identity or content together with the nature of objects in the world hence a name s reference is dependent on but not identical to its meaning a name is directly and rigidly referential because the extension of the idea it expresses is not determined by the extensions of component ideas the expression theory thus has the strength of fregeanism without its descriptivist bias and of millianism without its referentialist or causalist shortcomings the referential properties of ideas can be set out recursively by providing a generative theory of ideas assigning extensions to atomic ideas and formulating rules whereby the semantic value of a complex idea is determined by the semantic values of its components davis also shows how referential properties can be treated using situation semantics and possible worlds semantics the key is to drop the assumption that the values of intension functions are the referents of the words whose meaning they represent and to abandon the necessity of identity for logical modalities many other pillars of contemporary philosophical semantics such as the twin earth arguments are shown to be unfounded culture and meaning are central to anthropology but anthropologists do not agree on what they are claudia strauss and naomi quinn propose a new theory of cultural meaning one that gives priority to the way people s experiences are internalized drawing on connectionist or neural network models as well as other psychological theories they argue that cultural meanings are not fixed or limited to static groups but neither are they constantly revised or contested their approach is illustrated by original research on understandings of marriage and ideas of success in the united states this book presents the work of a group of scholars who without seeking to impose an explicit redefinition of either theory or analysis explore the limits of both throughout its evolution piaget s theory has placed meaning at the center of all attempts to understand the nature and development of knowing for piaget all knowing whether sensorimotor representational or reasoned and whether directed toward successful problem solutions or toward general understanding is necessarily a construction which arises out of meaning making activity it was in this context that the editors of this volume originally published in 1994 approached the board of directors of the jean piaget society with a proposal to organize a recent annual symposium around

the topic of the nature and development of meaning in forming this symposium and in moving from symposium to integrated text the editors wanted to insure both a breadth and depth to the analysis of the topic addressing philosophical theoretical and empirical perspectives this issue oriented volume provides an integrated exploration of the current understanding of the nature and development of meaning contemporary issues that frame alternative understandings of the nature of meaning nativist vs constructivist positions and computational vs embodied mind contexts are examined as they impact on the investigation of meaning comparative cognitive and linguistic developmental dimensions of meaning are described and discussed despite widespread admiration for the first amendment s protection of speech this iconic feature of american legal thought has never been adequately theorized existing theories of speech proceed on the basis of legal doctrine and judicial decisionmaking social and political philosophy or legal and intellectual history but these are not the disciplines one would most naturally turn to in analyzing speech meaning in law a theory of speech takes a new and different approach this book develops a general legal theory of speech on the basis of linguistic theory and the philosophy of language the opening chapters retrace the main conceptual stages in the expression of meaning from natural meaning through symbolism to signification later chapters analyze symbolic speech communication by nonlinguistic means as the key to developing an intention based theory of speech the essential elements of the theory are 1 nonnatural meaning 2 the signaling of intent 3 the recognition of intent and 4 establishing a convention a final chapter applies these insights to the case law of symbolic speech and resolves some basic confusions in the legal literature this analysis proceeds by way of an original distinction between actual conduct in the real world and the ideal conduct described in a statute the former may be described both as communicative and noncommunicative while the latter has already been conceptualized as either communicative or noncommunicative this distinction clears up a major legal quandary how conduct that counts as communication may nevertheless be regulated or prohibited without running afoul of the first amendment s protection of speech this is a new release of the original 1960 edition have you ever wondered what is the meaning of life if you have chances are you have suffered if you haven t chances are that things are pretty much going your way this book is about a theory of analysis based on the meaning of life i have chosen to call this theory the reciprocal theory of analysis by theory i mean that it is my view of human thought and behavior as it applies to psychology and counseling it is about certain concepts that can be used

to help understand relationships and their impact on mental emotional and spiritual health this book offers a unique perspective on meaning in language broadening the scope of existing understanding of meaning by introducing a comprehensive and cohesive account of meaning that draws on a wide range of linguistic approaches the volume seeks to build up a complete picture of what meaning is different types of meaning and different ways of structuring the same meaning across myriad forms and varieties of language across such domains such as everyday speech advertising humour and academic writing supported by data from psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic research the book combines different approaches from scholarship in semantics including formalist structuralist cognitive functionalist and semiotics to demonstrate the ways in which meaning is expressed in words but also in word order and intonation the book argues for a revised conceptualisation of meaning toward presenting a new perspective on semantics and its wider study in language and linguistic research this book will appeal to scholars interested in meaning in language in such fields as linguistics semantics and semiotics the open access version of this book available at taylorfrancis com has been made available under a creative commons attribution non commercial no derivatives 4 0 license originally published in 1977 the semantics of metaphor presents a theory for the metaphoric construal of deviant sentences the theory has two aspects the first relates to metaphor considered as a productive process of language and describes the mechanisms that operate in its semantic interpretation this part of the theory is presented in chapters iii and iv the second aspect bears on metaphor considered in the context of poetry and develops a conception of metaphoric truth this part of the theory is presented in chapters vi and vii the study is semantic in the sense of dealing with both meaning and truth as these properties pertain to metaphor of the remaining chapters the first isolates certain problems of a pragmatic nature from the central semantic concern chapter ii follows with a survey of recent scholarship on the question of semantic deviance and chapter v compares the theory expounded in chapters iii and iv with three other accounts of metaphor this is the first extended discussion of preferred interpretation in language understanding integrating much of the best research in linguistic pragmatics from the last two decades when we speak we mean more than we say in this book stephen c levinson explains some general processes that underlie presumptions in communication this is the first extended discussion of preferred interpretation in language understanding integrating much of the best research in linguistic pragmatics from the last two decades levinson outlines a theory of presumptive

meanings or preferred interpretations governing the use of language building on the idea of implicature developed by the philosopher h p grice some of the indirect information carried by speech is presumed by default because it is carried by general principles rather than inferred from specific assumptions about intention and context levinson examines this class of general pragmatic inferences in detail showing how they apply to a wide range of linguistic constructions this approach has radical consequences for how we think about language and communication this prize monograph was a pioneering work among marxist philosophers east and west twenty five years ago to our mind the work would have been received with respect and pleasure by philosophers of many viewpoints if it had been known abroad then now revised for this english language editijn by our dear and honored colleague mihailo markovic it is still admirable still the insightful and stimulating accomplishment of a pioneering philosophical and scientific mind still resonating to the three themes of technical mastery humane purpose political critique markovic has always worked with the scientific and the humanist disci plines inseparably a faithful as well as a creative man oflate twentieth century thought reasoning is to be studied as any other object of investigation would be empirically theoretically psychologically historically imaginatively but the entry is often through the study of meaning in language and in life in his splendid guide into the work before us his introduction markovic shows his remarkable ability as the teacher motivating clarifying sketching the whole illuminating the detail critically situating the problem within a practical understanding of the tool oflanguage 󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀 󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀 󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀󰀀 this study represents a contribution to the theory of meaning in natural language it proposes a semantic theory containing a set of regular relational principles these principles enable semantic theory to describe connections from the lexical reading of a word to its figurative contextual reading from one variant reading of a polysemous lexical item to another from the idiomatic to its literal reading or to the literal reading s of one or more of its component lexical items semiotic theory provides a foundation by supplying principles defining motivated expression content relations for signs generally the author argues that regular semantic relational principles must dervive from such semiotic principles to ensures the psychological reality and generality of the semantic principles this volume of newly commissioned essays examines current theoretical and computational work on polysemy the term used in semantic analysis to describe words with more than one meaning or function sometimes perhaps related as in plain and sometimes perhaps not as in bank such words present few

difficulties in everyday language but pose central problems for linguists and lexicographers especially for those involved in lexical semantics and in computational modelling the contributors to this book leading researchers in theoretical and computational linguistics consider the implications of these problems for grammatical theory and how they may be addressed by computational means the theoretical essays in the book examine polysemy as an aspect of a broader theory of word meaning three theoretical approaches are presented the classical or aristotelian the prototypical and the relational their authors describe the nature of polysemy the criteria for detecting it and its manifestations across languages they examine the issues arising from the regularity of polysemy and the theoretical principles proposed to account for the interaction of lexical meaning with the semantics and syntax of the context in which it occurs finally they consider the formal representations of meaning in the lexicon and their implications for dictionary construction the computational essays are concerned with the challenge of polysemy to automatic sense disambiguation how intended meaning for a word occurrence can be identified the approaches presented include the exploitation of lexical information in machine readable dictionaries machine learning based on patterns of word co occurrence and hybrid approaches that combine the two as a whole the volume shows how on the one hand theoretical work provides the motivation and may suggest the basis for computational algorithms while on the other computational results may validate or reveal problems in the principles set forth by theories

The Theory of Meaning

1968

selected writings concerned with a central theme in recent philosophy the problem of the nature and criteria of meaning

Aristotle's Theory of Language and Meaning

2001

this is a book about aristotle s philosophy of language interpreted in a framework that provides a comprehensive interpretation of aristotle s metaphysics philosophy of mind epistemology and science the aims of the book are to explicate the description of meaning contained in de interpretatione and to show the relevance of that theory of meaning to much of the rest of arisotle s philosophy in the process deborah modrak reveals how that theory of meaning has been much maligned

Ordinary Meaning

2015-12-22

brian g slocum s ordinary meaning offers an extended legal linguistic analysis of the eponymous interpretive doctrine a centuries old consensus exists among courts and legal scholars that words in legal texts should be interpreted in light of accepted standards of communication therefore the questions of what makes some meaning the ordinary one and how the determinants of ordinary meaning are identified and conceptualized are of crucial importance to the interpretation of legal texts arguing against reliance on acontextual dictionary definitions ordinary meaning rigorously explores the contributions that specific context makes to meaning

along with linguistic phenomena such as indexicals and quantifiers slocum provides a theory and a robust general framework for how the determinants of ordinary meaning should be identified and developed

Theory and Meaning

1979

this book is concerned with those aspects of the theory of meaning for scientific terms that are relevant to questions about the evaluation of scientific theories the contemporary debate about theory choice in science is normally presented as a conflict between two sets of ideas on the one hand are notions of objectivity realism rationality and progress in science on the other is the view that meanings depend on theory with associated claims about the theory dependence of observation the theoretical context account of meaning incommensurability and so on the book shows that there is no real contest here that the two sets of ideas are in fact quite compatible more specifically it argues that the meanings of all scientific terms including those used to report observations are inseparable from the total context of surrounding theory and so will inevitably vary with theoretical change but that this is quite consistent with a broadly objectivist account of science the first half of the book shows how ideas about the theory dependence of observation and meaning have led to the breakdown of the traditional empiricist account of science and how some of the more obvious responses to these ideas are inadequate the second half shows how these ideas can satisfactorily be accommodated within a non relativist account of science

Knowledge of Meaning ...

1995

published in 1998 this book argues that in recent decades anglo american philosophy of language has been captivated by the idea that the key to progress in this area of philosophy lies in investigating the possibility of

constructing a theory of meaning this text provides an in depth critique of the davidsonian suggestion that tarski s work on formal definitions of truth is an important element in allowing us to understand the form that the theory of meaning should take

Michael Dummett and the Theory of Meaning

2018-08-17

the philosophy of language is not an isolated philosophical discipline of merely technical interest to other philosophers rather as mark platts shows the philosophy of language can help to solve traditional problems in other areas of philosophy such as metaphysics epistemology and ethics ways of meaning provides a clear comprehensive introduction to such issues at the forefront of philosophy assuming only minimum knowledge of elementary formal logic the book shows how taking truth as the central notion in the theory of meaning can clarify the relations between language reality and knowledge and thus illuminate the nature of each this second edition of the book contains a new chapter on the notions of natural kind words and natural kinds unlike other discussions of the subject this one places the semantic issues involved in the context of questions about the relations between knowing subjects and known objects the author has also added a bibliography of further readings published since the first edition appeared in 1979

Ways of Meaning

1997

a direct successor to searle s speech acts c u p 1969 expression and meaning refines earlier analyses and extends speech act theory to new areas including indirect and figurative discourse metaphor and fiction

General Theory of Value

1967

the four essays that make up this volume are based upon and expand the lectures ricoeur delivered at texas christian university 27 30 november 1973 as their centennial lectures they may be read as separate essays but they may also be read as step by step approximations of a solution to a single problem that of understanding language at the level of such productions as poems narratives and essays whether literary or philosophical in other words the central problem at stake in these four essays is that of works in particular that of language as a work

Expression and Meaning

1979

in this work i have tried to present husseri s philosophy of thinking and meaning in as clear a manner as i can in doing this i had in mind a two fold purpose i wanted on the one hand to disentangle what i have come to regard as the central line of thought from the vast mass of details of the logische unter suchungen and the formale und transzendentale logik on the other hand i tried to take into consideration the immense developments in logic and semantics that have taken place since husseri s major logical studies were published it is my belief that no one to day can look back upon the philosophers of the past except in the light of the admirable progress achieved and consolidated in the fields of logic and semantics in recent times fortunately enough from this point of view husseri fares remarkably well he certainly anticipated many of those recent investigations what is more a true understanding and appraisal of his logical studies is not possible except in the light of the corresponding modern investigations this last consider ation may provide us with some explanation of the rather puzzling fact that orthodox husseriian scholarship both within and outside germany has not accorded to his logical studies the central importance that they from all points of view unmis

takeably deserve

Interpretation Theory

1976

the tradition descending from frege and russell has typically treated theories of meaning either as theories of meanings propositions expressed or as theories of truth conditions however propositions of the classical sort don t exist and truth conditions can t provide all the information required by a theory of meaning in this book one of the world s leading philosophers of language offers a way out of this dilemma traditionally conceived propositions are denizens of a third realm beyond mind and matter grasped by mysterious platonic intuition as conceived here they are cognitive event types in which agents predicate properties and relations of things in using language in perception and in nonlinguistic thought because of this one s acquaintance with and knowledge of propositions is acquaintance with and knowledge of events of one s cognitive life this view also solves the problem of the unity of the proposition by explaining how propositions can be genuinely representational and therefore bearers of truth the problem in the traditional conception is that sentences utterances and mental states are representational because of the relations they bear to inherently representational platonic complexes of universals and particulars since we have no way of understanding how such structures can be representational independent of interpretations placed on them by agents the problem is unsolvable when so conceived however when propositions are taken to be cognitive event types the order of explanation is reversed and a natural solution emerges propositions are representational because they are constitutively related to inherently representational cognitive acts strikingly original what is meaning is a major advance

Edmund Husserl's Theory of Meaning

2012-12-06

this volume includes contributions from well known philosophers of language and semanticists it is a useful collection for students in philosophy of language semantics and epistemology it discusses new research in semantics theory of truth philosophy of language and theory of communication from a trans disciplinary perspective and addresses issues such as sentence meaning utterance meaning speaker s intention and reference linguistic context circumstances and background theories

What Is Meaning?

2012-10-28

current textbooks in formal semantics are all versions of or introductions to the same paradigm in semantic theory montague grammar knowledge of meaning is based on different assumptions and a different history it provides the only introduction to truth theoretic semantics for natural languages fully integrating semantic theory into the modern chomskyan program in linguistic theory and connecting linguistic semantics to research elsewhere in cognitive psychology and philosophy as such it better fits into a modern graduate or undergraduate program in linguistics cognitive science or philosophy furthermore since the technical tools it employs are much simpler to teach and to master knowledge of meaning can be taught by someone who is not primarily a semanticist linguistic semantics cannot be studied as a stand alone subject but only as part of cognitive psychology the authors assert it is the study of a particular human cognitive competence governing the meanings of words and phrases larson and segal argue that speakers have unconscious knowledge of the semantic rules of their language and they present concrete empirically motivated proposals about a formal theory of this competence based on the work of alfred tarski and donald davidson the theory is extended to a wide range of constructions occurring in natural language including predicates proper nouns pronouns and

demonstratives quantifiers definite descriptions anaphoric expressions clausal complements and adverbs knowledge of meaning gives equal weight to philosophical empirical and formal discussions it addresses not only the empirical issues of linguistic semantics but also its fundamental conceptual questions including the relation of truth to meaning and the methodology of semantic theorizing numerous exercises are included in the book

Concepts of Meaning

2013-03-14

what is it for marks or sounds to have meaning and what is it for someone to mean something in producing them answering these and related questions schiffer explores communication speech acts convention and the meaning of linguistic items in this reissue of a seminal work on the foundations of meaning a new introduction takes account of recent developments and places his theory in a broader context

Knowledge of Meaning

1995-09-23

patrick de gramont draws upon evidence from infant observaton and linguistics as well as from information theory in order to make two related points first he demonstrates how our prevailing theories of meaning have failed to account for how we distort meaning

Meaning

1988

what is meaning paul horwich presents an original philosophical theory demonstrates its richness and reconciles his theory with a rational view of meaning derived from its use thereby vindicating his standpoint

Language and the Distortion of Meaning

1992-04

by w h mccrea f r s the only justification for our concepts and system of concepts is that they serve to represent the complex of our experiences beyond this they have no legitimacy so einstein writes on page 2 of this book most present day physicists would agree and many before einstein must have held the same opinion einstein however put the opinion into practice to better purpose than any physicist before him and for einstein it evidently meant what it means for most of us today a theory is the construction of a theoretical model of the world of physics all the mathematical discussion applies to the model the model embodies the system of concepts and it serves to represent the complex of our experiences if the experience of the theoretical observer in the theoretical model can be put into satisfactory correspondence with the experi ence of the actual observer in the actual physical world classical mechanics and classical electromagnetism pro vide models that are good representations of two sets of actual experiences as einstein was the first fully to appreciate however it is not possible to combine these into a single self consistent model the construction of the simplest possible self consistent model is the achieve ment of einstein s theory of special relativity the theory is found in particular to give a satisfactory representation of the electromagnetic interaction between charged particles through its use of the concept of the electromagnetic field

The Field Theory of Meaning

1958

nondescriptive meaning and reference extends wayne davis s groundbreaking work on the foundations of

semantics davis revives the classical doctrine that meaning consists in the expression of ideas and advances the expression theory by showing how it can account for standard proper names and the distinctive way their meaning determines their reference he also shows how the theory can handle interjections syncategorematic terms conventional implicatures and other cases long seen as difficult for both ideational and referential theories the expression theory is founded on the fact that thoughts are event types with a constituent structure and that thinking is a fundamental propositional attitude distinct from belief and desire thought parts ideas or concepts are distinguished from both sensory images and conceptions word meaning is defined recursively sentences and other complex expressions mean what they do in virtue of what thought parts their component words express and what thought structure the linguistic structure expresses and unstructured words mean what they do in living languages in virtue of evolving conventions to use them to express ideas the difficulties of descriptivism show that the ideas expressed by names are atomic or basic the reference of a name is the extension of the idea it expresses which is determined not by causal relations but by its identity or content together with the nature of objects in the world hence a name s reference is dependent on but not identical to its meaning a name is directly and rigidly referential because the extension of the idea it expresses is not determined by the extensions of component ideas the expression theory thus has the strength of fregeanism without its descriptivist bias and of millianism without its referentialist or causalist shortcomings the referential properties of ideas can be set out recursively by providing a generative theory of ideas assigning extensions to atomic ideas and formulating rules whereby the semantic value of a complex idea is determined by the semantic values of its components davis also shows how referential properties can be treated using situation semantics and possible worlds semantics the key is to drop the assumption that the values of intension functions are the referents of the words whose meaning they represent and to abandon the necessity of identity for logical modalities many other pillars of contemporary philosophical semantics such as the twin earth arguments are shown to be unfounded

Meaning

1998

culture and meaning are central to anthropology but anthropologists do not agree on what they are claudia strauss and naomi quinn propose a new theory of cultural meaning one that gives priority to the way people s experiences are internalized drawing on connectionist or neural network models as well as other psychological theories they argue that cultural meanings are not fixed or limited to static groups but neither are they constantly revised or contested their approach is illustrated by original research on understandings of marriage and ideas of success in the united states

The Meaning of Relativity

2013-03-09

this book presents the work of a group of scholars who without seeking to impose an explicit redefinition of either theory or analysis explore the limits of both

The Meaning of Meaning

1946

throughout its evolution piaget s theory has placed meaning at the center of all attempts to understand the nature and development of knowing for piaget all knowing whether sensorimotor representational or reasoned and whether directed toward successful problem solutions or toward general understanding is necessarily a construction which arises out of meaning making activity it was in this context that the editors of this volume originally published in 1994 approached the board of directors of the jean piaget society with a proposal to

organize a recent annual symposium around the topic of the nature and development of meaning in forming this symposium and in moving from symposium to integrated text the editors wanted to insure both a breadth and depth to the analysis of the topic addressing philosophical theoretical and empirical perspectives this issue oriented volume provides an integrated exploration of the current understanding of the nature and development of meaning contemporary issues that frame alternative understandings of the nature of meaning nativist vs constructivist positions and computational vs embodied mind contexts are examined as they impact on the investigation of meaning comparative cognitive and linguistic developmental dimensions of meaning are described and discussed

Nondescriptive Meaning and Reference

2005-07-14

despite widespread admiration for the first amendment s protection of speech this iconic feature of american legal thought has never been adequately theorized existing theories of speech proceed on the basis of legal doctrine and judicial decisionmaking social and political philosophy or legal and intellectual history but these are not the disciplines one would most naturally turn to in analyzing speech meaning in law a theory of speech takes a new and different approach this book develops a general legal theory of speech on the basis of linguistic theory and the philosophy of language the opening chapters retrace the main conceptual stages in the expression of meaning from natural meaning through symbolism to signification later chapters analyze symbolic speech communication by nonlinguistic means as the key to developing an intention based theory of speech the essential elements of the theory are 1 nonnatural meaning 2 the signaling of intent 3 the recognition of intent and 4 establishing a convention a final chapter applies these insights to the case law of symbolic speech and resolves some basic confusions in the legal literature this analysis proceeds by way of an original distinction between actual conduct in the real world and the ideal conduct described in a statute the former may be described both as communicative and noncommunicative while the latter has already been conceptualized as either communicative or noncommunicative this distinction clears up a major legal quandary

how conduct that counts as communication may nevertheless be regulated or prohibited without running afoul of the first amendment s protection of speech

Dialectical Theory of Meaning

1983

this is a new release of the original 1960 edition

A Cognitive Theory of Cultural Meaning

1998-01-13

have you ever wondered what is the meaning of life if you have chances are you have suffered if you haven t chances are that things are pretty much going your way this book is about a theory of analysis based on the meaning of life i have chosen to call this theory the reciprocal theory of analysis by theory i mean that it is my view of human thought and behavior as it applies to psychology and counseling it is about certain concepts that can be used to help understand relationships and their impact on mental emotional and spiritual health

Theory, Analysis and Meaning in Music

1994-07-21

this book offers a unique perspective on meaning in language broadening the scope of existing understanding of meaning by introducing a comprehensive and cohesive account of meaning that draws on a wide range of linguistic approaches the volume seeks to build up a complete picture of what meaning is different types of meaning and different ways of structuring the same meaning across myriad forms and varieties of language

across such domains such as everyday speech advertising humour and academic writing supported by data from psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic research the book combines different approaches from scholarship in semantics including formalist structuralist cognitive functionalist and semiotics to demonstrate the ways in which meaning is expressed in words but also in word order and intonation the book argues for a revised conceptualisation of meaning toward presenting a new perspective on semantics and its wider study in language and linguistic research this book will appeal to scholars interested in meaning in language in such fields as linguistics semantics and semiotics the open access version of this book available at taylorfrancis com has been made available under a creative commons attribution non commercial no derivatives 4 0 license

The Nature and Ontogenesis of Meaning

2023-06-09

originally published in 1977 the semantics of metaphor presents a theory for the metaphoric construal of deviant sentences the theory has two aspects the first relates to metaphor considered as a productive process of language and describes the mechanisms that operate in its semantic interpretation this part of the theory is presented in chapters iii and iv the second aspect bears on metaphor considered in the context of poetry and develops a conception of metaphoric truth this part of the theory is presented in chapters vi and vii the study is semantic in the sense of dealing with both meaning and truth as these properties pertain to metaphor of the remaining chapters the first isolates certain problems of a pragmatic nature from the central semantic concern chapter ii follows with a survey of recent scholarship on the question of semantic deviance and chapter v compares the theory expounded in chapters iii and iv with three other accounts of metaphor

Meaning in Law: A Theory of Speech

2009-08-07

this is the first extended discussion of preferred interpretation in language understanding integrating much of the best research in linguistic pragmatics from the last two decades when we speak we mean more than we say in this book stephen c levinson explains some general processes that underlie presumptions in communication this is the first extended discussion of preferred interpretation in language understanding integrating much of the best research in linguistic pragmatics from the last two decades levinson outlines a theory of presumptive meanings or preferred interpretations governing the use of language building on the idea of implicature developed by the philosopher h p grice some of the indirect information carried by speech is presumed by default because it is carried by general principles rather than inferred from specific assumptions about intention and context levinson examines this class of general pragmatic inferences in detail showing how they apply to a wide range of linguistic constructions this approach has radical consequences for how we think about language and communication

John Locke's Theory of Meaning

2013-10

this prize monograph was a pioneering work among marxist philosophers east and west twenty five years ago to our mind the work would have been received with respect and pleasure by philosophers of many viewpoints if it had been known abroad then now revised for this english language editijn by our dear and honored colleague mihailo markovic it is still admirable still the insightful and stimulating accomplishment of a pioneering philosophical and scientific mind still resonating to the three themes of technical mastery humane purpose political critique markovic has always worked with the scientific and the humanist disci plines inseparably a faithful as well as a creative man oflate twentieth century thought reasoning is to be studied as any other object of investigation would be empirically theoretically psychologically historically imaginatively but the entry is often through the study of meaning in language and in life in his splendid guide into the work before us his introduction markovic shows his remarkable ability as the teacher motivating clarifying sketching the whole illuminating the detail critically situating the problem within a practical understanding of the tool

oflanguage

The Meaning of Life

2013-04-26

<u>Meaning and Argument</u>

1994

this study represents a contribution to the theory of meaning in natural language it proposes a semantic theory containing a set of regular relational principles these principles enable semantic theory to describe connections from the lexical reading of a word to its figurative contextual reading from one variant reading of a polysemous lexical item to another from the idiomatic to its literal reading or to the literal reading s of one or more of its component lexical items semiotic theory provides a foundation by supplying principles defining motivated expression content relations for signs generally the author argues that regular semantic relational principles must derive from such semiotic principles to ensures the psychological reality and generality of the semantic principles

Significance in Language

2022-01-19

this volume of newly commissioned essays examines current theoretical and computational work on polysemy the term used in semantic analysis to describe words with more than one meaning or function sometimes

perhaps related as in plain and sometimes perhaps not as in bank such words present few difficulties in everyday language but pose central problems for linguists and lexicographers especially for those involved in lexical semantics and in computational modelling the contributors to this book leading researchers in theoretical and computational linguistics consider the implications of these problems for grammatical theory and how they may be addressed by computational means the theoretical essays in the book examine polysemy as an aspect of a broader theory of word meaning three theoretical approaches are presented the classical or aristotelian the prototypical and the relational their authors describe the nature of polysemy the criteria for detecting it and its manifestations across languages they examine the issues arising from the regularity of polysemy and the theoretical principles proposed to account for the interaction of lexical meaning with the semantics and syntax of the context in which it occurs finally they consider the formal representations of meaning in the lexicon and their implications for dictionary construction the computational essays are concerned with the challenge of polysemy to automatic sense disambiguation how intended meaning for a word occurrence can be identified the approaches presented include the exploitation of lexical information in machine readable dictionaries machine learning based on patterns of word co occurrence and hybrid approaches that combine the two as a whole the volume shows how on the one hand theoretical work provides the motivation and may suggest the basis for computational algorithms while on the other computational results may validate or reveal problems in the principles set forth by theories

The Semantics of Metaphor

2019-12-01

Presumptive Meanings

2000-04-24

Dialectical Theory of Meaning

2011-10-12

2008-04-10

Semiotic Principles in Semantic Theory

1981-01-01

Meaning-text Theory

1990

Polysemy

2000-06-15

John Locke's Theory of Meaning

1960

Act & Quality

1981