

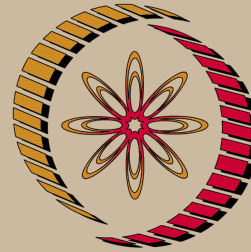
Philosophy of Language - Web course

COURSE OUTLINE

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

This course answers to the central questions 'what is meaning?', 'what is it for a word or expression to be meaningful?', and 'how we understand others utterances?'. Since the age of Analytic Philosophy the term 'meaning' is explained in various ways; 'meaning as use', 'meaning is determined of its truth-conditions', 'meaning is reference', 'meaning is picture of a thought', etc. All these issues are treated separately by philosophers like; Frege, Wittgenstein, Logical Positivists, Russell, Davidson, W.V. Quine, J.L. Austin and a few others which will be discussed in this course. In addition to these, there will be a critical explanation on the Indian aspects of theories of meaning by considering the works of Bhatta and Prabhakara Schools of Mimamsa, and Bhartrihari concepts of meaning. All of them essentially argue to explain the nature of meaning in the context of language. Language deals with various aspects of our life and hence associated with our livelihood. It cannot be dissociated from our thoughts. This is so because thought without language is an impossible phenomenon. Thus, the main concern is how we know what a speaker means, which leads to further discussions *how the hearer knows what the speaker means and what it is that the hearer knows*. Analyses of these issues help students to think and argue rationally, represent their thoughts analytically and communicate meaningfully in their usage of language. The objectives of this course are to;

- Elucidate the relation between 'meaning' and 'understanding' of a proposition.
- Explain the truth conditional approaches to meaning.
- Illustrate the use theory of meaning.
- Differentiate between meaning and reference.
- Analyse picture theory of meaning.



NP-TEL

NPTEL

<http://nptel.iitm.ac.in>

Humanities and Social Sciences

Hyperlinks:

1. Routledge Encyclopaedia of Philosophy:
URL- (<http://www.rep.routledge.com/article/U017>)
2. Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (IEP):
URL- (<http://www.iep.utm.edu/lang-phi/>)

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- Distinguish between ideas and thoughts, names and objects.
- Explain subjective, intersubjective, and objective concepts of meaning.

COURSE DETAIL

Sl.No.	Topics and Content	No. of Lectures
1.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Introduction to Philosophy of Language. 2. Language to Philosophy: A Key Turn. 3. Differences between Linguistic Philosophy and Philosophy of Language. 4. Ordinary Language, Meta-language, Logically Perfect Language. 5. Semantics and Syntax. 	02
2.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Theories of Meaning (Meaning as use, truth, reference, and picture of a thought). 2. Theories of Truth (Correspondence, Coherence, and Pragmatic Theory of Truth). 	01
3.	<p>Gottlob Frege:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On Sense and Reference. 2. Sense Determination and Reference. 3. Thoughts and Ideas. 4. On Concepts and Objects. 	04

	<p>5. Compositionality Theory of Meaning.</p> <p>6. Meaning is derived from Contexts (<i>Grundlagen</i>).</p>	
4.	<p>Early Wittgenstein:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Picture Theory of Meaning. 2. The Structure of a Proposition. 3. Signs and Propositions. 4. Elementary Propositions. 5. Atomic Facts. 	03
5.	<p>Logical Positivists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Criterion of Meaningfulness. 2. Verifiability Theory of Meaning. 3. Does Conclusive Verification Possible? 4. Are Universal Statements Meaningless? 5. Ethical Assertions and Verifiability Criterion. 6. Concept of 'Open Texture'. 	04
6.	<p>Russell:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On Denoting. 	02
7.	<p>Strawson:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On Referring. 	03
8.	<p>W.V.Quine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analytic-Synthetic Distinctions. 2. Two Dogmas- First & Second Layer of Arguments. 	04

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Indeterminacy of Translation Thesis. 4. Truth of Language and Truth of the World. 	
9.	<p>J. L. Austin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speech Acts. 2. Locutionary, Illocutionary, and Perlocutionary Acts. 3. Phatic, Phonetic, and Rhetic Acts. 	04
10.	<p>Donald Davidson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tarski's Theory of Truth. 2. Material Adequacy and Formal Truth of a Statement. 3. Theory of Meaning and Theory of Interpretation. 4. Shareability of Belief. 5. Indexical Principles. 	04
11.	<p>Later Wittgenstein:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revision of <i>Tractatus</i>. 2. Use Theory of Meaning. 3. Family Resemblance. 4. Language Game. 5. The Common Behaviour of Mankind and Forms of Life. 	05
12.	<p>Indian Theories of Meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conditions for Determining the Meaning of a Sentence (Akanksha, 	05

	Yogyata, Sannidhi, Tatparya). 2. Bhatta School of Mimansa (Abhihitavyavada). 3. Prabhakara School of Mimansa (Anvihitanvyavada). 4. Bhartrihari Concept of Meaning.
Total Number of Lectures	41

References:

1. Ammerman, R.R. (1965) (Eds.) Classics of Analytic Philosophy, New York, McGraw-Hill Publication.
2. Ayer, A.J. (1946) Language, Truth, and Logic, New York: Dover Publication.
3. Davidson, D. (2001) Inquiries into Truth, and Interpretation, New York: Oxford University Press.
4. Dummett, M. (1981) Frege: Philosophy of Language, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
5. Muntiz, M, K. (1981) Contemporary Analytic Philosophy, New York: Macmillan Publications.
6. Raja, K.K. (1969) Indian Theories of Meaning, Madras: Theosophical Publishing House.

Journals

1. Philosophy and Phenomenological research
(<http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0031-8205>)
2. Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (<http://www.icpr.in/journal.html>)
3. The Philosophical Quarterly
(<http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0031-8094>)

