

I: INTRODUCTORY

Some background

The deficiencies of the subject/predicate analysis

Aristotle was a philosopher

No one is immortal

Whales are mammals

The mullet is a fish

Terms, predicates, quantifiers, functions; connectives. The compositional nature of language.

Use and mention

Fish have gills

'Fish' has four letters

'Fish' is a word of English

'Fish' names a word of English

Semantics and Pragmatics

A short letter of recommendation for a philosophy job:

X has neat handwriting and is always punctual.

Semantics (provisional characterizations): that which is strictly and literally said (meant); the truth conditions; the invariant linguistic meaning.

Pragmatics (provisional characterization): the rest.

What is the semantic contribution of a singular term?

Its referent? The 'Fido'-Fido theory

Problems:

Identity

Non-referring terms

Existentials (esp. negative existentials)

Indirect discourse (She said that HTLV-III, not LAV, was the cause of AIDS)