Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
PART ONE: A Century of Work in the Philosophy of Language	
CHAPTER ONE	
The Logical Study of Language	7
1.1 Gottlob Frege—Origins of the Modern Enterprise	7
1.11 Foundations of Philosophical Semantics	7
1.12 Frege's Distinction between Sense and Reference	e 8
1.13 The Compositionality of Sense and Reference	10
1.14 Frege's Hierarchy of Indirect Senses and	
Referents	13
1.15 The Semantic Importance of Frege's Platonist	
Epistemology	15
1.16 Potential Problems and Alternative Analyses	16
1.17 The Fregean Legacy	20
1.2 Bertrand Russell: Fundamental Themes	20
1.21 Quantification, Propositions, and Propositional	
Functions	20
1.22 Generalized Quantifiers	23
1.23 Denoting Phrases, Definite Descriptions, and	
Logical Form	24
1.24 Russell's Theory of Scope	26
1.25 Thought, Meaning, Acquaintance, and Logically	
Proper Names	28
1.26 Existence and Negative Existentials	30
Selected Further Reading	32
CHAPTER TWO	
Truth, Interpretation, and Meaning	33
2.1 The Importance of Tarski	33

Contents

2.11 Truth, Models, and Logical Consequence 2.12 The Significance of Tarski for the Philosophy	33
of Language 2.2 Rudolf Carnap's Embrace of Truth-Theoretic	38
-	
Semantics	41
2.3 The Semantic Approach of Donald Davidson Selected Further Reading	45
v	49
CHAPTER THREE	
Meaning, Modality, and Possible Worlds Semantics	50
3.1 Kripke-Style Possible Worlds Semantics 3.2 Robert Stalnaker and David Lewis	50
on Counterfactuals	56
3.3 The Montagovian Vision	63
Selected Further Reading	75
CHAPTER FOUR	
Rigid Designation, Direct Reference, and Indexicality	77
4.1 Background	77
4.2 Kripke on Names, Natural Kind Terms,	
and Necessity	78
4.21 Rigid Designation, Essentialism, and	
Nonlinguistic Necessity	78
4.22 The Nondescriptive Semantics of Names	80
4.23 Natural Kind Terms	88
4.24 Kripke's Essentialist Route to the	
Necessary Aposteriori	91
4.3 Kaplan on Direct Reference and Indexicality	93
4.31 Significance: The Tension between Logic	
and Semantics	93
4.32 The Basic Structure of the Logic of	
Demonstratives	94
4.33 Direct Reference and Rigid Designation	97
4.34 'Dthat' and 'Actually'	99
4.35 English Demonstratives vs. 'Dthat'-Rigidified	
Descriptions	100
4.36 Final Assessment	104
Selected Further Reading	105

vii

PART TWO: New Directions

CHAPTER FIVE	
The Metaphysics of Meaning: Propositions and	
Possible Worlds	109
5.1 Loci of Controversy	109
5.2 Propositions	11:
5.21 Why We Need Them and Why Theories of	
Truth Conditions Can't Provide Them	11:
5.22 Why Traditional Propositions Won't Do	113
5.23 Toward a Naturalistic Theory of Propositions	116
5.231 The Deflationary Approach	117
5.232 The Cognitive-Realist Approach	12:
5.3 Possible World-States	123
5.31 How to Understand Possible World-States	123
5.32 The Relationship between Modal and	
Nonmodal Truths	126
5.33 Our Knowledge of World-States	126
5.34 Existent and Nonexistent World-States	128
5.35 The Function of World-States in Our Theories	129
Selected Further Reading	130
CHAPTER SIX	
Apriority, Aposteriority, and Actuality	131
6.1 Language, Philosophy, and the Modalities	131
6.2 Apriority and Actuality	132
6.21 Apriori Knowledge of the Truth of Aposteriori	-0-
Propositions at the Actual World-State	132
6.22 The Contingent Apriori and the Apriori	-0-
Equivalence of P and the Proposition <i>That P Is T</i>	rue
at @	134
6.23 Why Apriority Isn't Closed under Apriori	
Consequence: Two Ways of Knowing @	135
6.24 Apriori Truths That Are Known Only	
Aposteriori	136
6.25 Apriority and Epistemic Possibility	137
6.26 Are Singular Thoughts Instances of the	-
Contingent Apriori?	140
6.3 'Actually'	142
Selected Further Reading	149

Contents

CHAPTER SEVEN	
The Limits of Meaning	145
7.1 The Traditional Conception of Meaning, Thought,	
Assertion, and Implicature	145
7.2 Challenges to the Traditional Conception	147
7.21 Demonstratives: A Revision of Kaplan	147
7.22 Incomplete Descriptions, Quantifiers,	
and Context	151
7.23 Pragmatic Enrichment and Incomplete	
Semantic Contents	155
7.231 Implicature, Impliciture, and Assertion	155
7.232 Pervasive Incompleteness? Possessives,	
Compound Nominals, and Temporal Modification	158
7.3 A New Conception of the Relationship between	
Meaning, Thought, Assertion, and Implicature	163
7.31 The Guiding Principle	163
7.32 Demonstratives and Incomplete Descriptions	
Revisited	164
7.33 Names and Propositional Attitudes	168
7.4 What Is Meaning? The Distinction between	
Semantics and Pragmatics	171
Selected Further Reading	173
References	175
Index	187