

1 Basics

- Both mental states (e.g., beliefs) and language (e.g., sentences) have intentionality.
- Grice's idea: explain the intentionality of language by appeal to thought.
- Humpty-Dumpty's Problem: You can't make a word or sentence mean something just by wishing it.
- Grice's solution: you get the belief into the sentence by thinking about the role the sentence plays in communication. More precisely:
 - Grice begins with an analysis of what communication is.
 - That analysis comprehends an analysis of the role of language in communication.
 - This analysis will then give us the tools to explain how specific bits of language have literal, linguistic meaning.

2 Natural vs. Non-Natural Meaning

NATURAL MEANING

1. Those spots mean measles.
2. Those spots didn't mean anything to me, but to the doctor they meant measles.
3. The recent budget means that we shall have a hard year.

NON-NATURAL MEANING

1. Those three rings on the bell (of the bus) mean that the bus is full.
2. That remark, 'Smith couldn't get on without his trouble and strife,' means that Smith found his wife indispensable.