Realism and Anti-Realism II: appendix

Lent 2018 | Dr Maarten Steenhagen (ms2416@cam.ac.uk) | msteenhagen.github.io

Acquisition argument

- 1. Suppose that some of the sentences of D have verification-transcendent truth-conditions. [assumption]
- 2. We understand the sentences of D. [premise]
- 3. To understand a sentence is to know its truth-conditions. [premise]
- 4. We know the truth-conditions of the sentences of D. [from 2, 3]
- 5. If we know the truth-conditions of the sentences of D, then it is possible for us to acquire that knowledge. [premise]
- 6. It was possible for us to acquire knowledge of the truth-conditions of the sentences of D. [from 4, 5]
- 7. It was possible for us to acquire knowledge of verification-transcendent truth-conditions. [from 1, 6]
- 8. It is not possible for us to acquire knowledge of verification-transcendent truth-conditions. [premise]
- 9. Contradiction. [from 7, 8]
- 10. The sentences of D do not have verification-transcendent truth-conditions. [1–9]

Manifestation argument

- 1. Suppose that some of the sentences of D have verification-transcendent truth-conditions. [assumption]
- 2. We understand the sentences of D. [premise]
- 3. To understand a sentence is to know its truth-conditions. [premise]
- 4. We know the truth-conditions of the sentences of D. [from 2, 3]
- 5. If we know the truth-conditions of the sentences of D, then this knowledge can be manifest in our use of the sentences of D. [premise]
- 6. Our knowledge of the truth-conditions of the sentences of D can be manifest in our use of the sentences of D. [from 4, 5]
- 7. Our knowledge of verification-transcendent truth-conditions can be manifest in our use of the sentences of D. [from 1, 6]
- 8. Knowledge of verification-transcendent truth-conditions cannot be manifest in our use of the sentences of D. [premise]
- 9. Contradiction. [from 7, 8]
- 10. The sentences of D do not have verification-transcendent truth-conditions. [1–9]