

Philosophical Logic

LECTURE FOUR | MICHAELMAS 2017

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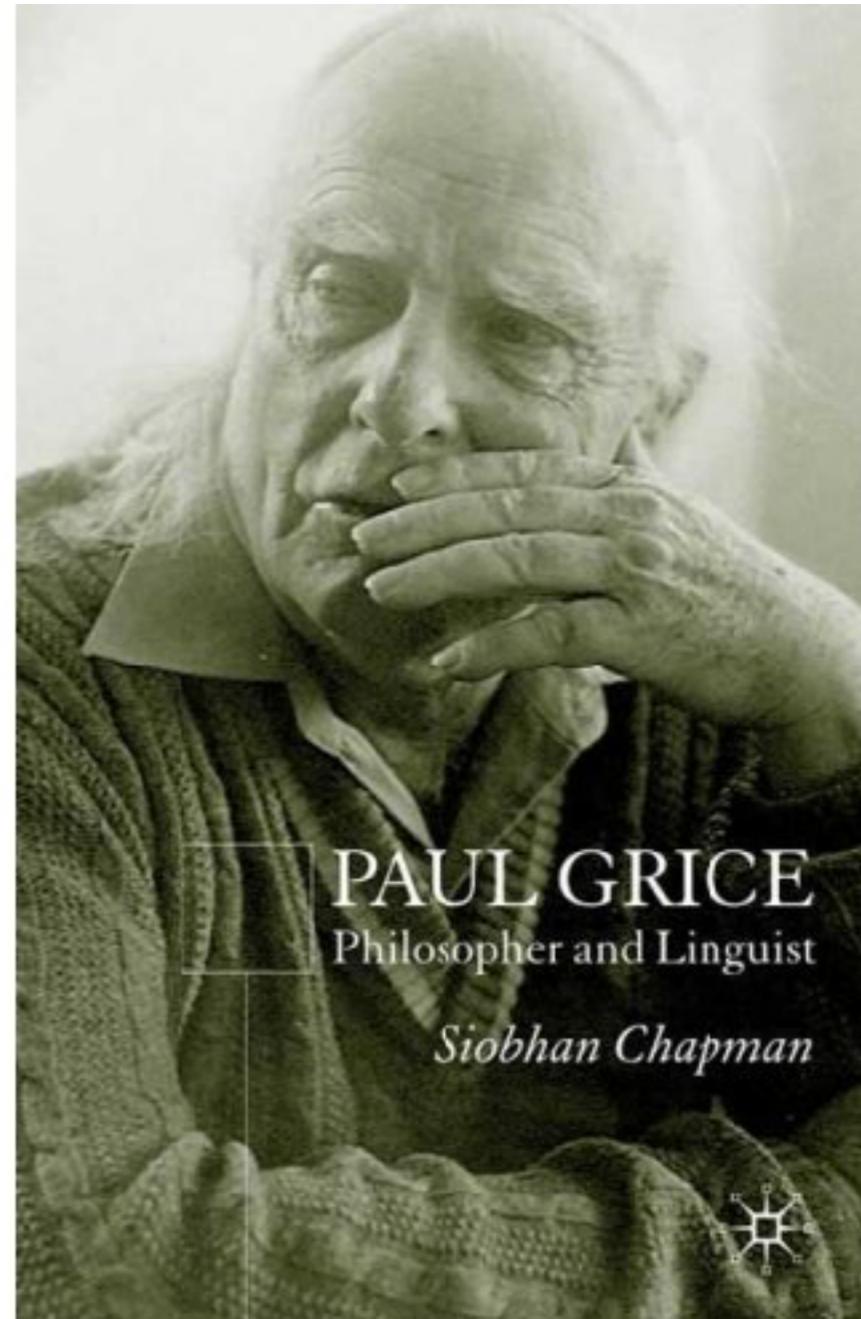


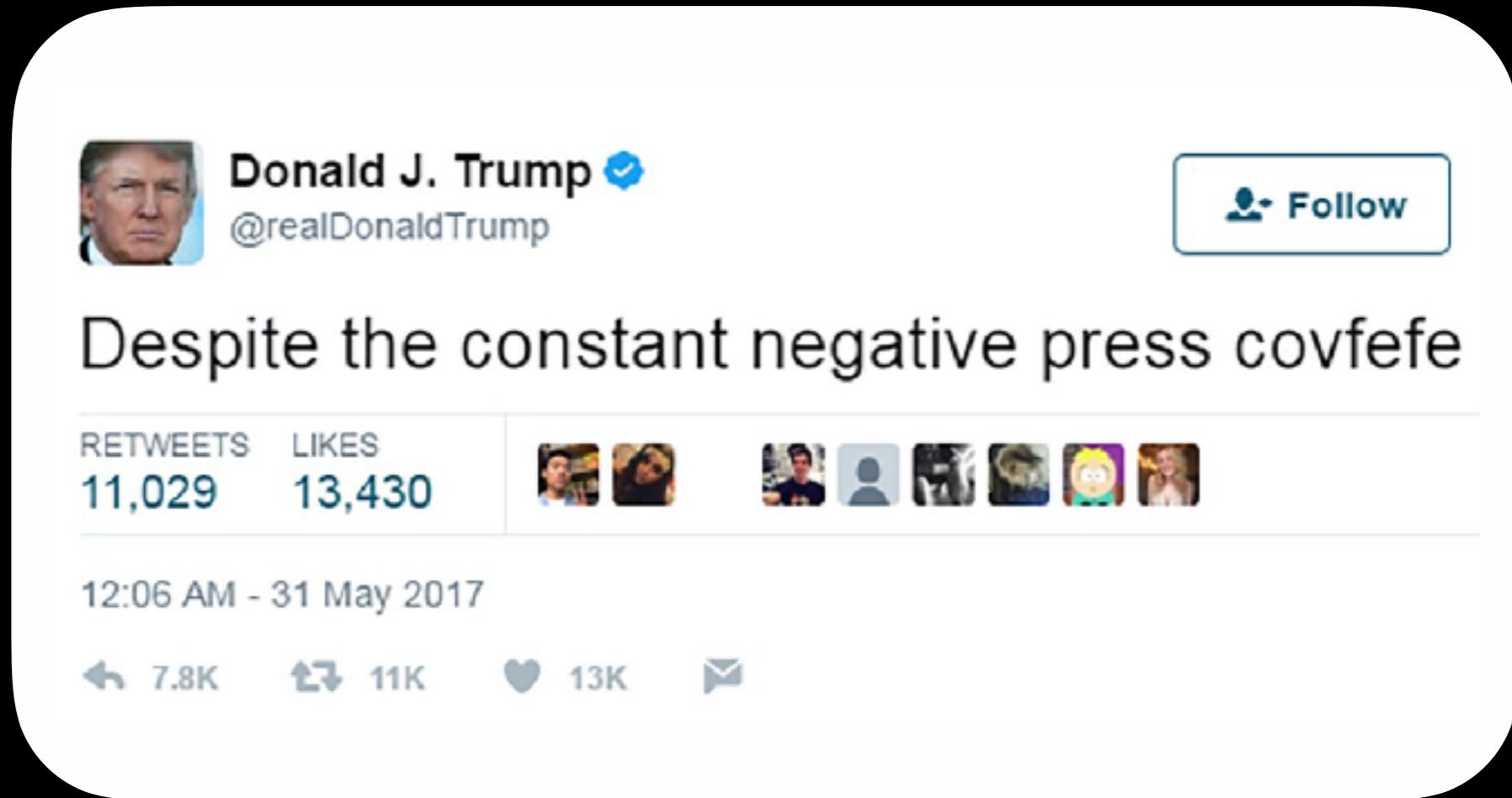
Last week

- Lecture 1: **Necessity, Analyticity, and the A Priori**
- Lecture 2: **Reference, Description, and Rigid Designation**
- Lecture 3: **What Could ‘Meaning’ Mean?**
- Lecture 4: **Natural Language**
- Lecture 5: **Formal Translations**
- Lecture 6: **Conditionals**
- Lecture 7: **Deeper into ‘the’**
- Lecture 8: **Quantification and Existence**

Grice's foundational theory of meaning

- **Natural** vs **Nonnatural** meaning
- **Speaker** meaning vs **Sentence** meaning
- Grice: explain speaker meaning in terms of a speaker's communicative intention
- Grice: explain sentence meaning (on an occasion) in terms of speaker meaning
- Grice: explain sentence meaning (timeless/conventional) in terms of sentence meaning on particular occasions





1. Donald **intends** his utterance to induce in his followers some mental state (for assertions this is a belief)
2. Donald intends his followers to **recognise** this above intention
3. Donald intends that his followers' recognition is to some extent **why** they come to have the mental state he wants them to have

Recognising intentions?

How do we recognise someone else's (communicative) intention?

- A. Knowledge of (social) context
- B. Knowledge of (language) conventions

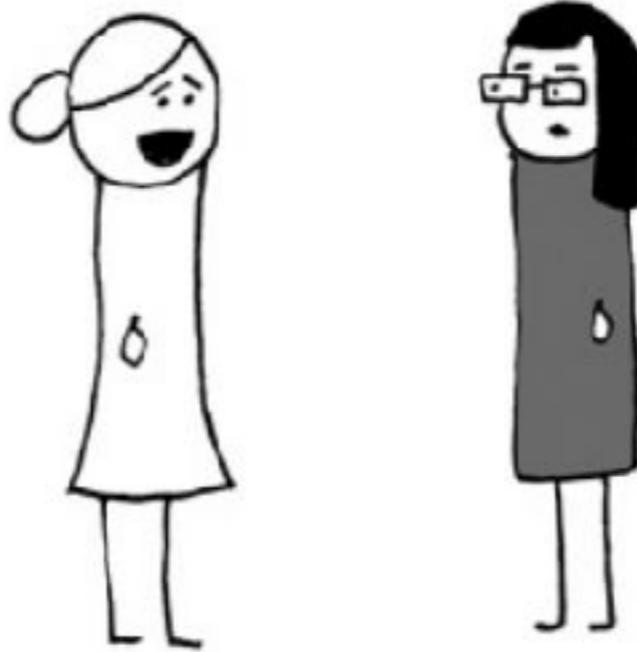
Question: is an established linguistic convention necessary for linguistic communication to be successful?



'What is said' vs 'What is implied'

WHEN I SAW
HOW MUCH IT
COST, MY HEAD
LITERALLY
EXPLODED!

-?



Meaning more than we say

- Often we have communicative intentions that do not give us an answer to what the sentences we utter means.
- Example: “This is a fine state of affairs!”
(Stuck on the M1 with a flat tyre.)
- This is uttered by someone to get someone to believe it’s a terrible situation. (Speaker meaning)
- But it seems obviously false that the *sentence*, even on such an occasion, meant that this is a terrible state of affairs. (Sentence meaning)
- Is this a problem for Grice?

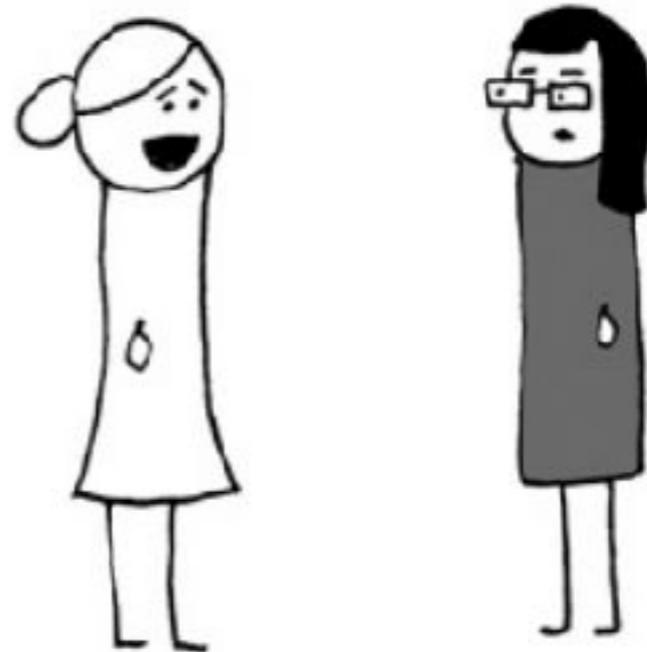


Implicature

- Grice ('Logic and Conversation') suggests that we distinguish between what we say and what we *imply*.
- (These are technical notions!)
- The central case of implicature arises because a speaker **violates** the ordinary norms of conversation.

WHEN I SAW
HOW MUCH IT
COST, MY HEAD
LITERALLY *
EXPLODED!

YOU SEEM TO
HAVE HEALED
SURPRISINGLY
WELL.



* when I saw how much it cost, I thought it was unreasonably expensive!

The **co-operative** principle

The Cooperative Principle

- I. **QUANTITY**
 - 1. *Make your contribution as informative as is required*
 - 2. *Do not make your contribution more informative than is required*
- II. **QUALITY**
 - Try to make your contribution one that is true**
 - 1. *Do not say what you believe to be false*
 - 2. *Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence*
- III. **RELATION** **Be relevant**
- IV. **MANNER**
 - Be perspicuous**
 - 1. *Avoid obscurity*
 - 2. *Avoid ambiguity*
 - 3. *Be brief*
 - 4. *Be orderly*

WHEN I SAW
HOW MUCH IT
COST, MY HEAD
LITERALLY
EXPLODED!



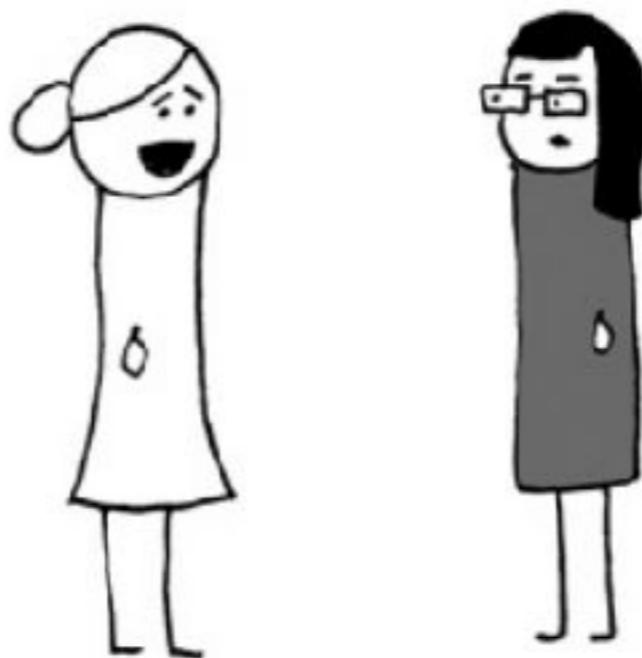
Implicature

- When someone seems to violates some of the maxims without violating the cooperative principle itself, it gives away that they imply more than what they say
- This is **conversational** implicature
- Sometimes a sentence carries an implicature when it is used literally: this is **conventional** implicature
- Conventional implicature emerges when (timelessly) “people” (vague) imply something by saying x



Conventional Implicature

iPhones are
Apple products
and therefore
expensive*



* An iPhone's being expensive follows
from its being an Apple product

Non-mentalist foundational theories of meaning



Non-Mentalism

- Two motivations for non-mentalism about meaning:
 - intentionality of the mind should be analysed in terms of the meaning of language
 - meaning of language should be explained in non-intentional (i.e. naturalistic) terms



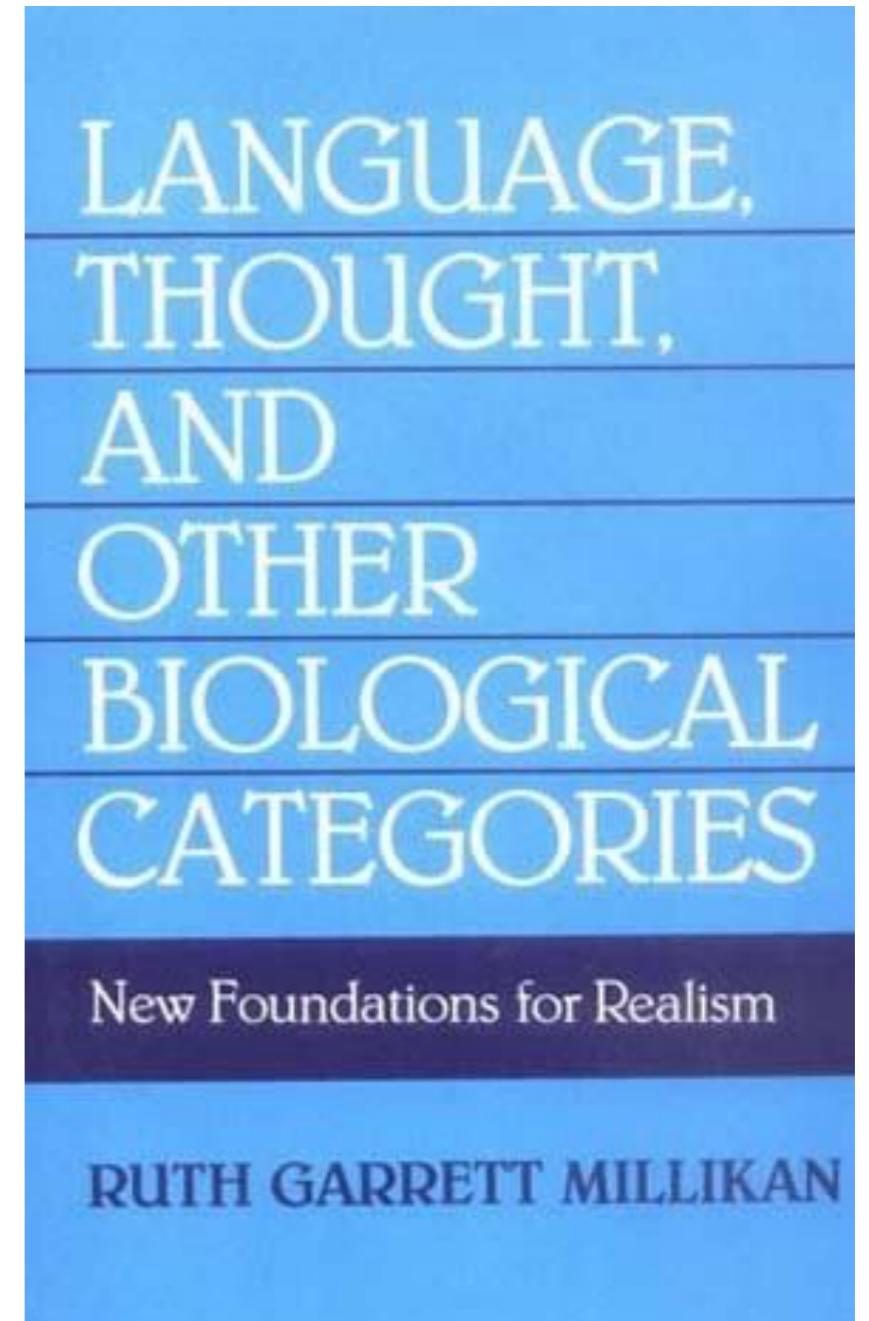
What is naturalism?

- **Ontological naturalism:**
Every phenomenon in reality is a natural phenomenon, and so reality contains nothing ‘supernatural’ (spooky, ghostly)
- **Methodological naturalism:**
the natural sciences tell us what phenomena are real



Meaning naturalism

- How can meaning come about naturally?
- ... in the natural world (physics, chemistry, biology)
- ... by natural processes (causation, growth, natural selection)





Next week

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