

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
M PHIL EXAMINATIONS 2005
for internal students

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Candidates should answer **THREE** of the following questions. Please avoid overlap in your answers.

1. What contribution, if any, does the notion of radical interpretation make to our understanding of linguistic meaning?
2. Does appeal to metaphorical meanings help us to understand metaphors?
3. Do speakers and hearers of English know a theory of meaning for English?
4. 'If we treat proper names as rigid designators, we cannot then explain the intelligibility of negative existential judgments such as: "Sherlock Holmes does not exist".' Discuss.
5. In what way, if any, is language conventional?
6. 'The truth conditions of a sentence give, or as good as give, its sense.' Discuss.
7. It appears that a house that is red on the outside and white on the inside may be correctly called 'red' in one conversational context, but not in another. What problems does this sort of phenomenon cause for formal semantic theories of natural language? How may they best be addressed?
8. Is there a real distinction between *de re* and *de dicto* propositional attitude attributions? If so, what is it?
9. Critically expound and assess what you take to be the best arguments that humans have innate knowledge of language.
10. What is logical form?
11. What is the best semantic account of complex demonstratives such as 'that cat'?
12. What is the best semantic account of Wh-questions, such as 'which books did you read'?

END OF PAPER