

1125-00-1816

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The fundamental principle of language is to take some  $s \in S$  to represent some  $o \in O$ . A set  $R$  of such *namings*  $\langle s, o \rangle$  is called a *representation* :iff all  $s \in S$  are non-vacuous and non-ambiguous with respect to  $R$ . It turns out that the representations can be identified with the functions  $\mu: S \rightarrow O$ , therefore called *meaning functions*.  $s, t$  are *equivalent* :iff  $\mu(s) = \mu(t)$ .

For such *languages*  $\mu: S \rightarrow O$  and  $\nu: D \rightarrow O$ ,  $\tau: S \rightarrow D$  is called a *translation* :iff there is invariance of meaning, viz.  $\nu \circ \tau = \mu$ . If  $d = \tau(s)$ ,  $s$  is called *source* and  $d$  *destination*.

A mapping  $\kappa$  from some  $C$  to  $S$  is called an *encoding*, where  $\kappa(c)$  is  $c$  *in clear*.  $\kappa$  becomes a translation, not before  $\nu := \mu \circ \kappa$  bestows meaning on all *codes*.

Concepts are namings of sets, predicates of relations, elementary propositions of circumstances. Accordingly, we define meaning functions for predicate symbols and elementary sentences. (Received September 21, 2016)