
Summaries

Filozofia Nauki 6/1, 151-152

1998

Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez **Muzeum Historii Polski** w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Summaries

Anna Jedynak

Intuitive grounds of empiristic conceptions of meaning

The paper presents different criteria of meaning formulated on the ground of contemporary empiricism, and shows their shortcomings. None of them respects all intuitions that empiricists have connected with the notion of meaning. The main thesis is that the intuitions can never be respected conjointly, for some of them exclude others. Consequently it is showed that the perfect empirical criterion of meaning does not exist.

Joanna Tędziągolska

The supervaluation theory of vagueness

Supervaluation is a method which has been invented to deal with the reference failure. In his 1975 paper K. Fine suggested that it might be applied to the analysis of the phenomenon of vagueness as well. The paper tries to assess the pros and cons of the supervaluation theory of vagueness.

Supervaluationism provides us with the means for analysing vagueness without eliminating it from the language and allows to solve the main paradox connected with vagueness; i.e. the sorities paradox. The preservation of classical logic was thought to be one of its main virtues. The solution to sorities which supervaluationism proposes is a very counterintuitive one, however. Moreover, it seems that it does not preserve classical logic after all. Besides, the theory of supervaluation is not able to handle the higher-order vagueness.

Nevertheless it remains one of the most attractive semantic theories of vagueness available. In connection with the objections raised against supervaluationism arises the problem concerning the interpretation of the meaning of the supervaluationism's key notion, namely the notion of super-truth. The paper offers one such interpretation.

Maciej Gos

Probabilistic methods in the semantics of natural language

It is possible to overcome difficulties connected with vagueness of natural language with the help of mathematical tools such as fuzzy sets and characteristic functions. The

main goal of this paper is to propose an interpretation of generalised characteristic function as identical with the probability calculated from density function (probability distribution) defined on certain set. This set is identified with the quasi-model interpretation of one-argument predicate of a natural language.

Artur Rojszczak

Why are truth-bearers supposed to be physical objects?

The question stated in the title of the article splits into two other questions. One is historical: why did Alfred Tarski choose physical objects as truth-bearers in his famous article „O pojęciu prawdy w językach nauk dedukcyjnych”? The second is philosophical: are there general reasons for choosing physical objects to play the role of truth-bearers? In the article the thesis put forward by H. Field and J. McDowell, claiming that it is physicalism of Vienna Circle which led Tarski to his choice, is rejected. Instead, it is argued that the source of Tarski's choice was Brentanian tradition.

Tadeusz Skalski

Cats, demons, spells and ... naturalism

What would it be like to have a materialistic theory of a language? Are humans able (not in principle but in practice) to develop such a theory? The author tries to show that the answer to the second question is „No”. The main argument is that the qualities of the theory in question would go far beyond what seems available for creatures of limited cognitive power.