



PHILOSOPHY 223
INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE
FINAL EXAM

Time: 2 hrs.

Tuesday, January 30,

Answer both parts I and II.

I

Answer **three** of the following questions. Be brief and clear and to the point. (30%)

1. What does Austin mean by a "performative utterance"?
2. How does Russell treat the identity statement "Hesperus = Phosphorus"?
3. What are the two dogmas of empiricism according to Quine?
4. What does Kripke mean by a "rigid designator"?
5. How, according to Davidson, can a Tarski-style theory of truth explain the fact that each speaker of a natural language has a potential understanding of an infinite number of sentences?

II

Answer **one** of the following questions. Be clear and devote most of your answer to part (c). (70%).

1. a. How does Frege react to the label theory concerning the meaning of ordinary proper names? (15%). b. How does Russell react to the same theory? How does Kripke? (15%). c. What do you think is the best account of the meaning of proper names? Why? Discuss. (40%).
2. a. What is the distinction between natural and non-natural meaning according to Grice? (15%). b. How does Grice explain the notion of meaning in his article "Meaning"? (15%). c. Sketch one possible objection to the claim that the notion of conventional linguistic meaning can be explained by appealing to speakers' intentions, and try to respond to it. (40%).
3. a. What does the Private Language Argument aim to show about solipsism, and how does it hope to show this? (15%). b. What is the relation between rule-following and speaking a language, and why is rule-following claimed to be an essentially public affair? (15%). c. Do you find the Private Language Argument convincing? Discuss. (40%).

