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The Problem of Meaning [I]

Kazuhira Yamane

Since the logical empiricists claimed metaphysical statements as meaningless, the problem of meaning becomes one of the most controversial problems in current philosophy. In this paper I endeavoured to show the following two points: (1) A linguistic theory which is called transformational grammar contributes to provide for the theoretical device by which is clearly explained the meaning of a sentence. According to the transformational grammarians, a pseudo-sentence is claimed as semantically anomalous, instead of as meaningless. (2) However, their arguments do not have any philosophical implications beyond the establishment of a method of formulating the meaning of a sentence, because the grammatical structure clarified by the transformational grammar is different from the logical structure of a sentence about which the logical empiricists established their philosophical claims.