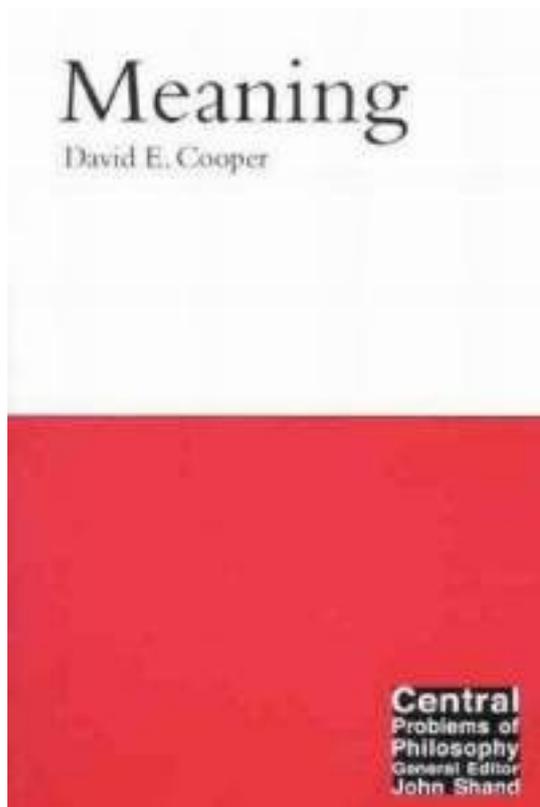


Meaning



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著者:Paul Elbourne

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Our outstanding ability to communicate is a distinguishing features of our species. To communicate is to convey meaning, but what is meaning? How do words combine to give us the meanings of sentences? And what makes a statement ambiguous or nonsensical? These questions and many others are addressed in Paul Elbourne's fascinating guide. He opens by asking what kinds of things the meanings of words and sentences could be: are they, for example, abstract objects or psychological entities? He then looks at how we understand a sequence of words we have never heard before;

he considers to what extent the meaning of a sentence can be derived from the words it contains and how to account for the meanings that can't be; and he examines the roles played by time, place, and the shared and unshared assumptions of speakers and hearers. He looks at how language interacts with thought and the intriguing question of whether what language we speak affects the way we see the world.

Meaning, as might be expected, is far from simple. Paul Elbourne explores its complex issues in crystal clear language. He draws on approaches developed in linguistics, philosophy, and psychology -- assuming a knowledge of none of them -- in a manner that will appeal to everyone interested in this essential element of human psychology and culture.

Review:

"This is a perfect guide to what semantics is all about. The book is informative, scholarly, witty, entertaining, and funny. It doesn't shy away from hard puzzles and unsolved problems, and places semantics where it belongs: at the intersection of linguistics, logic, metaphysics, cognitive psychology, and neuroscience."

--Angelika Kratzer, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

作者介绍:

Paul Elbourne is Reader in Semantics at Queen Mary, University of London. He is the author of *Situations and Individuals* (MIT Press, 2005) and numerous articles in linguistics and philosophy journals.

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标签

语言学

哲学

语义学

Semantics

Linguistica

分析哲学

linguistics

评论

很棒的语言哲学启蒙书

我可以很负责的说，这是语言哲学和语义学（无论是formal, lexical还是compositional）方面最好的导论，优点在于它概括了心理学，语言学和哲学三个领域的文献，并且很好的把每个学科的研究安放在了合适的位置上，阐明了相互的关系。

3.5? 称为一本优秀的intro还差火候。脉络大概是从第二章开始的内在-外在主义；lexical semantics；黑屁戴维森及可能世界语义学；句子在句法与语义层面的歧义，以及一些形式化分析工具；指示词、语境与语用学；Sapir-Whorf hypothesis相关。不太好的地方主要是在传统语言哲学进路相关的地方，由于作者本身立场比较mentalistic，所以黑屁有点多，介绍也不充分（第二章、第四章等）。以及第七章的讨论不太清晰。读完之后惊奇发现作者居然是语哲的而不linguistics的（毕竟这么不喜欢ideal language式甚至传统语哲的东西

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