

24.251 – Intro to the Philosophy of Language
Problem Set 7: The Foster Problem

1. What, according to Foster, is the problem with the original version of Davidson's proposal?
 - (a) Davidson has no good way of dealing with belief sentences and other intensional contexts.
 - (b) Davidson gives us no way of actually figuring out which sentences of the language under consideration are true.
 - (c) A Davidsonian theory of meaning might be consistent with many different interpretations of the language under consideration.
 - (d) None of the above.

2. What, according to Foster, is the problem with the revised version of Davidson's proposal?
 - (a) Davidsonian considerations of charity are misapplied.
 - (b) Davidson has not been able to formulate a theory that doesn't appeal to intentional idioms and states something knowledge of which is sufficient to interpret the language.
 - (c) There is a disparity between the weakness of what T-sentences state and the constraints on their construction.
 - (d) None of the above.

3. How does Foster think the problems he raises ought to be addressed?
 - (a) By renouncing considerations of Charity.
 - (b) By requiring a theory of meaning to state not just what it takes for a sentence to be true, given the way the world actually is, but also what it would take for a sentence to be true had the world been otherwise.
 - (c) By taking the meaning of a sentence to be a possible world.
 - (d) None of the above.