

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# “Meaning” IBS- Intention Based Semantics

By: Grice

# PRIOR THEORIES

- ▶ Lockean Veil of Perception: Are we in the box?
- ▶ Wittgenstein: We are IN the world and thus, we experience the world directly.
- ▶ Kripkenstein: There is NO meaning, ONLY meaningfulness as a function of public rules.
- ▶ Grice: There is still meaning and it lies in intention.

# Grice's Main Argument

- ▶ “...we may sum up what is necessary for A to mean something by X as follows. A must intend to induce by x a belief in an audience and he must also intend his utterance to be recognized as so intended. But these intentions are not independent; the recognition is intended by A to play its part in inducing the belief, and if it does not do so something will have gone wrong with the fulfillment of A's intentions” (383).

# Natural and Non-natural Senses of Perception

## Natural Sense

- “A means (meant) to do so-and-so (by x)” (378)
- Five Characteristics
  1. We conclude that “X means P” entails p
  2. We CANNOT conclude that what was meant by “X” was P
  3. We CANNOT conclude that someone/anyone meant anything by X
  4. “The fact that” serves as an “approximate restatement”
  5. We CANNOT find a “restatement” with the “verb ‘mean’” and “inverted commas”

## Non-Natural Sense

- “A means (meant) something by x”
- “A means (meant) by x that” (379).
- Five Characteristics
  1. X meant that p [does] not entail p
  2. Something was meant by X
  3. [S]omebody meant X
  4. “The fact that” is not a restatement
  5. We CAN find a “restatement” with the “verb ‘mean’” and “inverted commas”

# Objections to Causal Theory (circularity)

- Grice *rejects* C.L. Stevenson's claim that in order "for x to mean [in the nonnatural sense] something, x must have (roughly) a tendency to produce in an audience some attitude (cognitive or otherwise) and a tendency, in the case of the speaker to be produced by that attitude" (379-8)
- Causal theory only covers "standard"/"general" meaning of signs while meaning deals in particulars" (381)

# Isolated Intention as Insufficient

- ▶ “[I]f x was intended by its utterer to induce a belief in some ‘audience,’ and that to say what the belief was would be to say what x meant NN. This will not do” (381).
- ▶ i.e.: Handkerchief at murder scene

# Intention and Recognition as Sufficient Conditions

- ▶ “meaningNN requires intention of speaker for audience to recognize intention of utterance to be understood.
- ▶ “A meantNN something by x” means “A intended the utterance of x to produce some effect in an audience by means of the recognition of this intention.” (385)
- ▶ “x meant something” means/is equivalent to “somebody meantNN something by x” (385)
- ▶ i.e.: Showing photograph versus drawing

# Imperative Cases

- ▶ In the imperative examples, the utterer/speaker/actor does “not intend [the audience’s] recognition” (384).
- ▶ Examples:
  - a. “avaricious” man
  - b. Police’s methods of stopping a car



# Primary Intentions

- ▶ Only primary intentions are considered part of meaning of utterances
- ▶ “For if I utter x, intending (with the aid of the recognition of this intention) to induce an effect E, and intend this effect E to lead to a further effect F, then insofar as the occurrence of F is thought to be dependent solely on E. I cannot regard F as in the least dependent on recognition of my intention to induce E” (386).
- ▶ Sean’s Court case example

# Clarifications

- ▶ Traffic lights example: always distantly connected with intention
- ▶ philosopher's case: “a philosopher asked to explain the meaning of an unclear passage in one of his works), the answer is not based on what he remembers but is more like a decision, a decision about how what he said is to be taken” (387)

# Ambiguous Recognitions of Intentions

- ▶ Spontaneous versus Deliberate Smiles
- ▶ Oral Exams
  - Would Grice argue that this is not real communication.