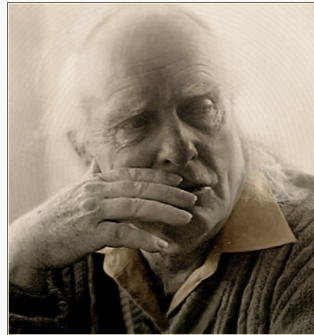


Grice on Meaning

~~JUSTIN BIEBER~~



By Caleb Williamson

Grice: Meaning

- A sentence's meaning depends on the way speakers and writers use it.
- Speaker intention, determines meaning.
- Grice distinguishes between two senses meaning
 - NATURAL (INDICATOR MEANING)
 - ❑ NON-NATURAL (COMMUNITICATIVE MEANING)

Natural Meaning

- Natural Meaning rests on law-like relations in the world.
- They do not rely on the intention of the speaker.

Examples Of Natural Meaning

“Those spots mean measles”

- It has to be the case that the person could not have those particular spots without having measles.
- The spots have to be unique for it to be measles.

“The recent budget means that we shall have a hard year”

- the budget shows what's coming in and going out and if the budget looks poor, then its an undoubtedly natural relation between shortage of money and budgetary difficulties ahead.

Non-natural Meaning

- The kind of meaning that is distinctive of linguistic expression and communication.

2 kinds:

- Conventional Meaning
 - how terms are standardly/conventionally used.
- Speaker Meaning
 - what the speaker means by the expression in a given context.

Examples of Non-Natural Meaning

- “Three rings on the bell (of the bus) mean that the bus is full.”
 - That’s a convention— it is widely known that three rings means that the bus is full... When people hear the 3 rings, they know the bus is full.

QUICK DIFFERENCES

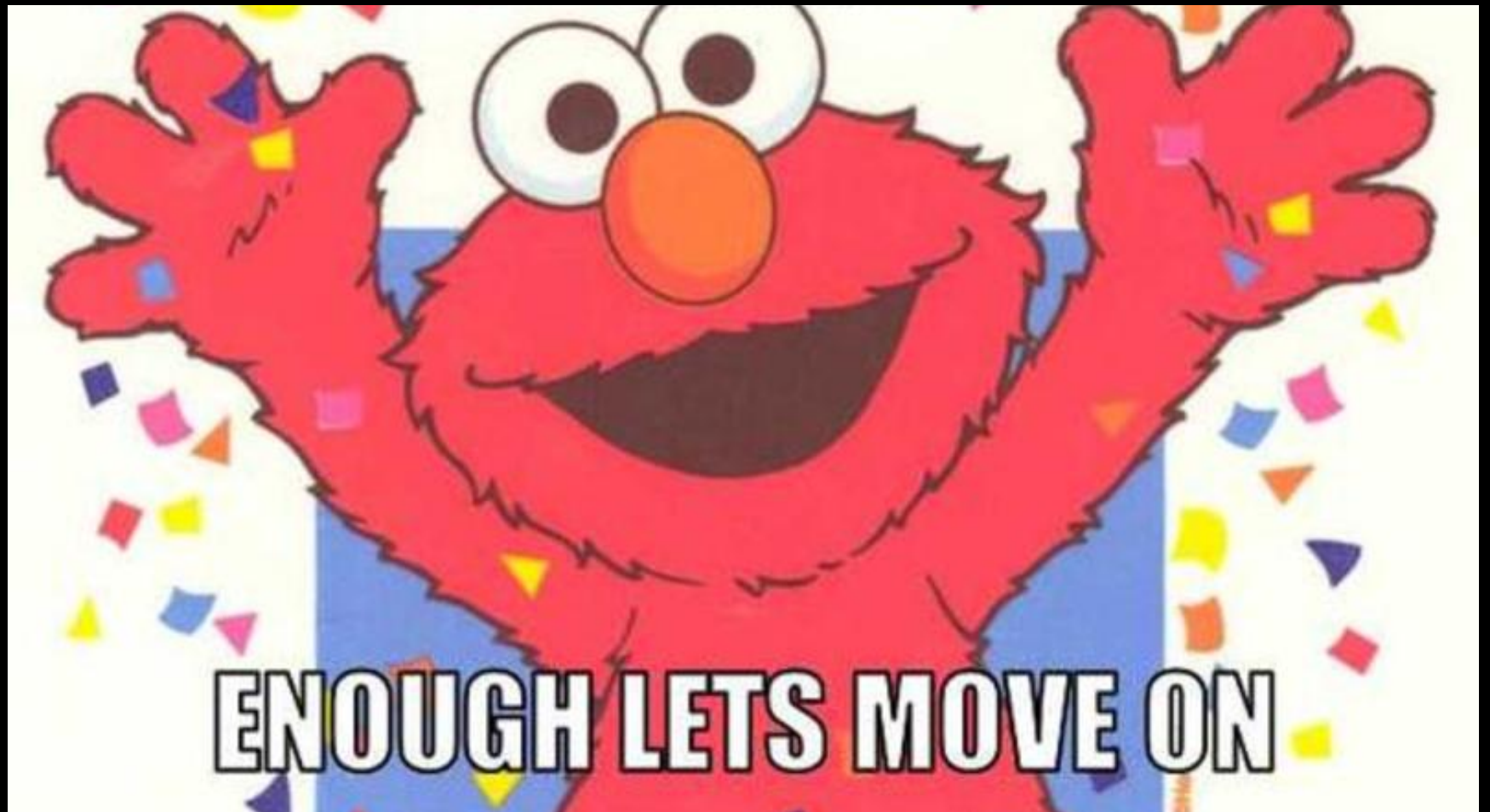
Natural Meaning

- DOES NOT RELY on the intention of the speaker.
- Error is impossible
 - Measles example

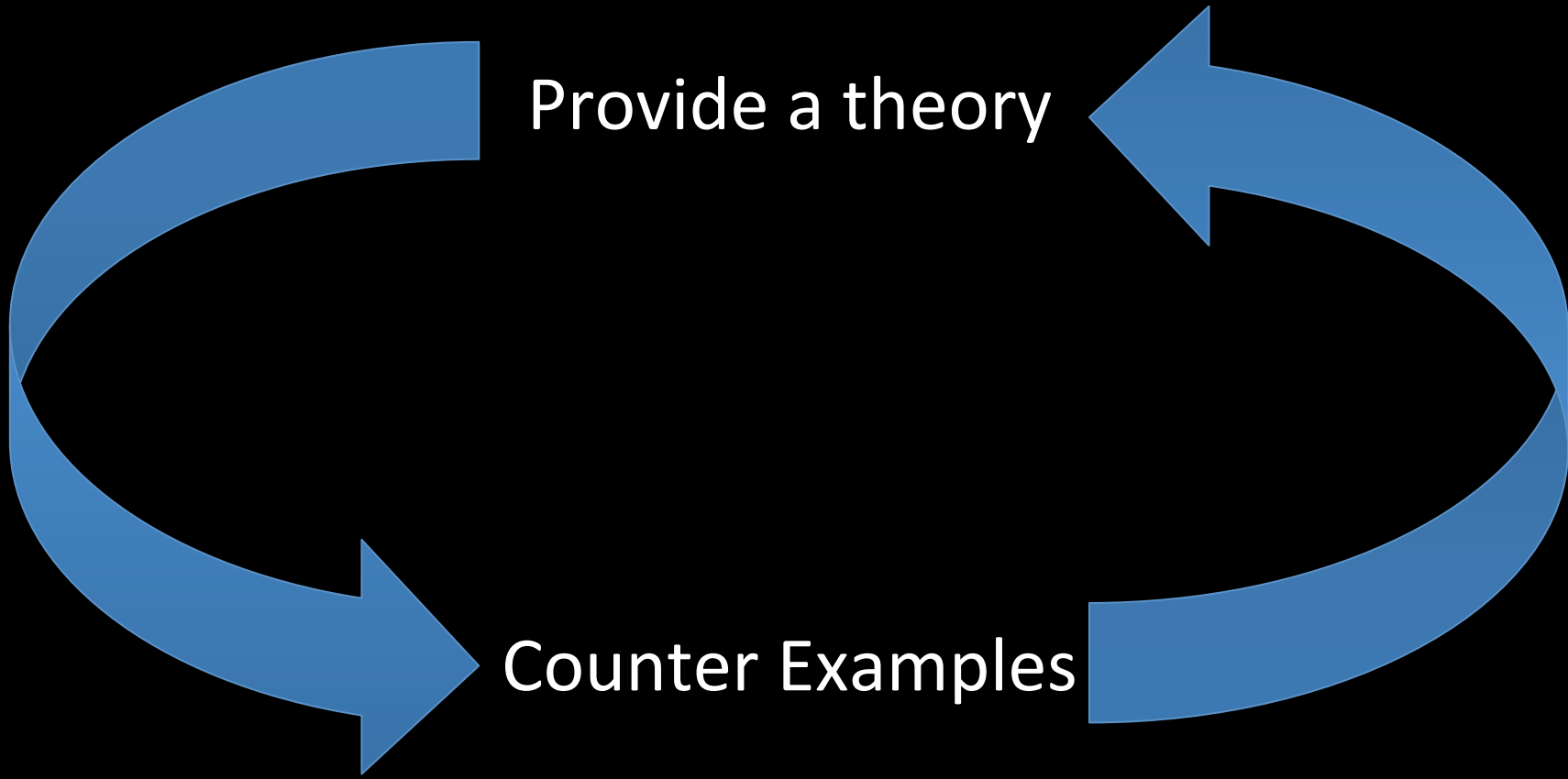
Non-Natural Meaning

- RELIES on the intention of the speaker
- There is room for error.
 - Rings on bus example

Now That We Know the Difference...



GRICE'S PAPER



Provide a theory

Counter Examples

Speaker Meaning

- Grice explains speaker meaning in terms of the communicative intention. In terms of intention on the part of the speaker to induce a certain belief in the hearer.
- The speaker's meaning is determined by what the speaker would like the hearer to believe on the basis on what the speaker said or as a result of what the speaker said.
- He does this in 3 steps..

Speaker-Meaning (3stages)

- 1) For a speaker to mean something non-naturally, the speaker must have an intention; an intention to the effect that the hearer of the utterance forms a certain belief.
- 2) The speaker must intend for the hearer to recognize the speaker's intentions.
- 3) The hearer of the utterance only forms the belief that the speaker wants him to form because the hearer picks up on the speaker's intention for the hearer to form that very belief.

Stage 1

- For a speaker to mean something non-naturally, the speaker must have an intention; an intention to the effect that the hearer of the utterance forms a certain belief.

Counter Example 1

Murderer Example

“I might leave B’s handkerchief near the scene of a murder in order to induce the detective to believe that B was the murderer; but we should not want to say that the handkerchief (or my leaving it there) meant_(NN) anything or that I had meant_(NN) by leaving it that B was the murderer. Clearly we must at least add that, for x to have meant_(NN) anything, not merely must it have been “uttered” with the intention of inducing a certain belief but also the utterer must have intended an “audience” to recognize the intention behind the utterance.” (381-82)

Stage 2

- The speaker must intend for the hearer to recognize the speaker's intentions.

Counter Example 2

Salome Example

“Here we seem to have cases which satisfy the conditions so far given for meanings. For example, Herod intended to make Salome believe that St. John the Baptist was dead and no doubt also intended Salome to recognize that he intended her to believe that St. John the Baptist was dead. Similarly for the other cases. Yet I certainly do not think that we should want to say that we have here cases of Meaning_{NN}.” (382)

Stage 3

- The hearer of the utterance only form the belief only forms the belief that the speaker wants him to form because the hearer picks up on the speaker's intention for the hearer to form that very belief.

Counter Example 3

Affair Example

The way out is perhaps as follows. Compare the following two cases:

- (i) I show Mr. X a photograph of Mr. r displaying undue familiarity to Mrs. X.
- (ii) I draw a picture of Mr. r behaving in this manner and show it to Mr. X. I find that I want to deny that in

(1) the photograph (or my showing it to Mr. X) meant_{NN} anything at all; while I want to assert that in (2) the picture (or my drawing and showing it) meant_{NN} something (that Mr. r had been unduly unfamiliar), or at least that I had meant_{NN} by it that Mr. r had been unduly familiar. What is the difference between the two cases? Surely that in case (i) Mr. X's recognition of my intention to make him believe that there is something between Mr. r and Mrs. X is (more or less) irrelevant to the production of this effect by the photograph. Mr. X would be led by the photograph at least to suspect Mrs. X even if instead of showing it to him I had left it in his room by accident; and I (the photograph shower) would not be unaware of this. But it will make a difference to the effect of my picture on Mr. X whether or not he takes me to be intending to inform him (make him believe something) about Mrs. X, and not to be just doodling or trying to produce a work of art. (383)

FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

Billy Madison



Jimmy Fallon

