

# Logic and Language

## Propositional Attitudes

How should we analyse sentences in indirect discourse, i.e. sentences of the form “Galileo said that the earth moves”?

## Essential Reading

- Mark Richard, “Propositional Attitude Ascription”, in Michael Devitt and Richard Hanley (eds), *The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Language*, Oxford: Blackwell (2006), pp. 186-211
- Saul Kripke, “A Puzzle about Belief”, in Avishai Margalit (ed.), *Meaning and Use*, Springer (1979), pp. 239-83; Peter Ludlow (ed.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Language*, MIT Press (1997), pp. 875-920
- Mark Crimmins and John Perry, “The Prince and the Phone Booth: Reporting Puzzling Beliefs”, *The Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 86 (1989), pp. 685-711
- Scott Soames, “Direct Reference, Propositional Attitudes, and Semantic Content”, *Philosophical Topics*, vol. 15 (1989), pp. 44-87
- Kent Bach, “Do Belief Reports Report Beliefs?”, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 78 (1997), pp. 215-41

## Additional Reading

- W. V. O. Quine, “Vagaries of Reference”, in Peter Ludlow (ed.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Language*, MIT Press (1997), pp. 801-15
- Donald Davidson, “On Saying That”, *Synthese*, vol. 19 (1968), pp. 130-46
- Stephen Schiffer, “Sententialist Theories of Belief”, in Peter Ludlow (ed.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Language*, MIT Press (1997), pp. 855-73
- Peter Millian, “Content, Thoughts, and Definite Descriptions”, *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, supplementary volume 6 (1990), pp. 167-203, section 5

## Past Paper Questions

- What is the best account of sentences like “Galileo said that the earth moves”? (2000, 9)
- What account of their meanings best explains the difference between “Jones said that someone murdered Smith” and “There is someone of whom Jones said that he murdered Smith”? (2001, 18)
- How is the meaning of “John hopes that P” related to the meaning of “P”? (2002, 13)
- To what, if anything, do terms in indirect discourse refer? (2003, 16)
- Does the name “Venus” have its customary reference in the sentence “John believes that Tony said that there is life on Venus”? If not, to what, if anything, does it refer? (2004, 14)
- Does the proper name “Cicero” have the same semantic role in the sentences “Cicero is an orator” and “Alice believes that Cicero is an orator”? (2009, 8)
- Do belief reports pose a problem for the principle that the meaning of a sentence is a function of the meaning of its constituents? (2011, 1)
- Must an adequate account of the truth-conditions of sentences such as “Lois Lane believes that Superman can fly” cause trouble for the view that each English word is used with the same meaning by all English speakers? (2014, 5b)