

Logical Form and Radical Interpretation

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Abstract This paper concerns the empirical constraints on a characterization of logical relations in a natural language. Syntactic characterizations are distinguished from model-theoretic ones. It is shown that the structure of syntactic characterizations is largely underdetermined by the empirical constraints that naturally suggest themselves. However, an explanation of the notion of a logical constant is suggested that renders the model-theoretic characterization of logical relations in an extensional language determinate, relative to an idealized intentional psychology for its speakers.

In the simplest cases a semantic theory for a natural language assigns semantic data to the syntactically primitive expressions of the language, and specifies how the semantic properties of complex expressions are determined by the semantic properties of their parts. A *logical* theory for such a language identifies certain semantically primitive expressions whose interpretations are to be held fixed, in some sense, in characterizing a consequence relation for the language. These are the *logical constants* of the characterization. A sentence *B* is said to be a consequence of a sentence *A* if, very roughly, the interpretations assigned to the logical constants alone guarantee that *B* is true when *A* is.¹ The *manifestation problem* for semantics is that of saying what sort of empirical content a semantic theory has; or what constitutes evidence in semantics; or what sort of empirically accessible facts a semantic theory predicts or explains and how it explains them.

This paper is about the manifestation problem for *logic*. Although the manifestation problem for semantics has been widely discussed, the manifestation problem for logic—the question of what constitutes evidence for a character-

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