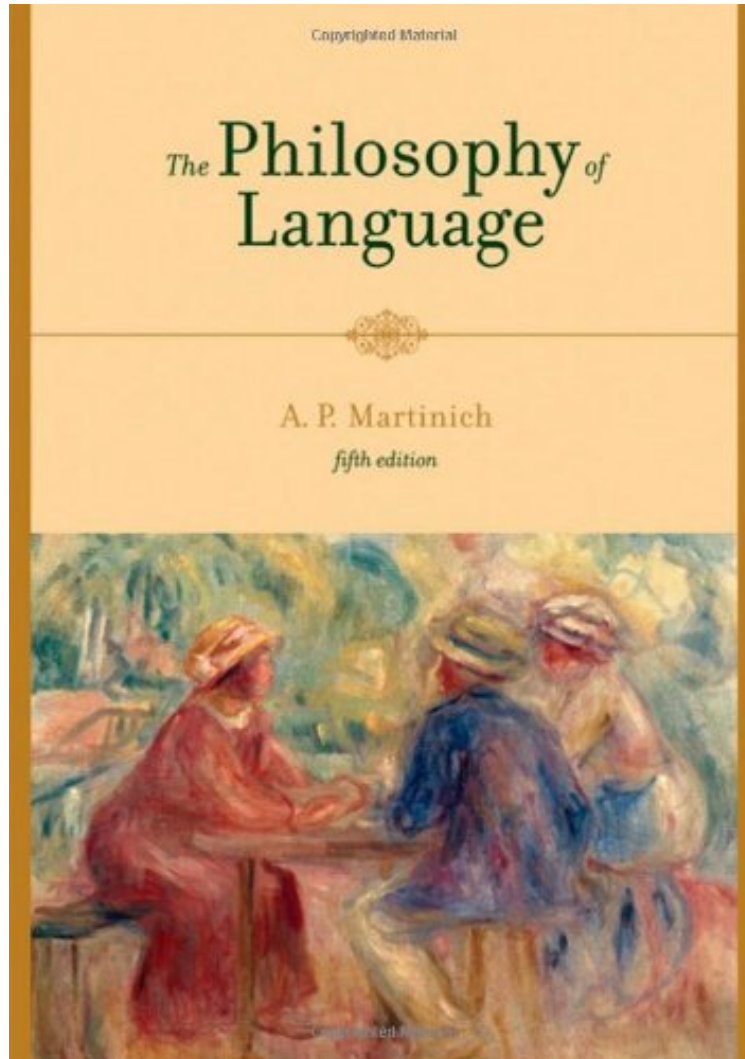


(Library ebook) The Philosophy of Language

# The Philosophy of Language

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**From Oxford University Press : The Philosophy of Language** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Philosophy of Language:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Anthology  
By Reader  
Edited by Al Martinich  
'The Philosophy of Language' is an anthology of classic essays in the modern analytic philosophy of language tradition. The following comments pertain to the 5th edition of the text published in 2008. This is the best collection of its type that I have come across. While the selection of essays to include in these types of anthologies is a difficult task, Martinich is successful in capturing the traditions seminal works and key thinkers, e.g. Frege, Russell, Church, Tarski, Quine, Strawson, Kripke, Searle etc. Potential purchasers are advised to review the available on-line table of contents prior to

purchase - most of these essays have been published in various formats and collections. An earlier reviewer had remarked that these essays are accessible. And, while I agree that they are not inaccessible, approaching them without a background in analytic philosophy or a skilled guide may be a daunting and frustrating task. While at its core the philosophy of language is concerned with the basic question of how language connects to the world, when notions such as meaning, reference and truth are examined the subject rapidly becomes complex and heavily nuanced. With respect to reading aids, two potential guides that come to mind are, Lycan's 'Philosophy of Language' (Routledge Contemporary Introductions series) and Searle's UC Berkley lectures available through iTunes. Overall an outstanding anthology - highly recommended for students of the philosophy of language - a handy collection of important essays. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. PerfectBy ErikThis made for an excellent collection of reference material for writing an upper-level introductory paper on semantics and language topics. 49 of 50 people found the following review helpful. Just the ClassicsBy Bob CarpenterAnyone serious about meaning in language should read these articles. They provide a baseline on which all other work builds. Whether you are interdisciplinary or only care about linguistics, philosophy, artificial intelligence or cognition, this book is one must-read paper after another. I used it for both my graduate semantics and undergraduate philosophy of language classes at Carnegie Mellon. You can read these papers on your own -- they're actually very accessible for papers on philosophy and do not require any prior logical background (though an intro to logic would surely help). Taken together, this book is the perfect basis for a quarter, semester or whole year of philosophy of language. The book's organized into sections on Truth and Meaning (Quine's classic paper on empiricism, Church on intensionality, Davidson and Strawson on truth and Tarski on semantics), Speech Acts (Austin on Performatives, Searle on Speech Acts, Grice on cooperation), Reference and Descriptions (Frege on sense and reference, Russell on denoting and descriptions with Strawson's reply on referring), Names and Demonstratives (Kripke on Naming and necessity and Putnam on meaning and reference), Propositional attitudes (Quine and Kaplan on quantifiers, Davidson and Kripke on propositional content, and Barwise and Perry on situation semantics), Metaphor (Davidson's classic paper, though I believe the second edition contained Searle's excellent paper on metaphor), Interpretation (Quine on meaning and Searle on indeterminacy), and the Nature of Language with what's left (Wittgenstein and Kripke on privacy, and Chomsky on semantic innateness).

What is meaning? How is linguistic communication possible? What is the nature of language? What is the relationship between language and the world? How do metaphors work? The Philosophy of Language, considered the essential text in its field, is an excellent introduction to such fundamental questions. This revised edition collects forty-six of the most important articles in the field, making it the most up-to-date and comprehensive volume on the subject. Revised to address changing trends and contemporary developments, the fifth edition features seven new articles including influential work by Mark Crimmins, Gottlob Frege, David Kaplan, Frederick Kroon, W. V. Quine, and Robert Stalnaker (two essays). Other selections include classic articles by such distinguished philosophers as J. L. Austin, John Stuart Mill, Hilary Putnam, Bertrand Russell, John R. Searle, and P. F. Strawson. The selections represent evolving and varying approaches to the philosophy of language, with many articles building upon earlier ones or critically discussing them. Eight sections cover the central issues: Truth and Meaning; Speech Acts; Reference and Descriptions; Names and Demonstratives; Propositional Attitudes; Metaphor and Pretense; Interpretation and Translation; and The Nature of Language. A general introduction and introductions to each section give students background to the issues and explain the connections between them. A list of suggested further reading follows each section.

"After nurturing several generations of philosophy of language students, this is arguably still the best sourcebook in the field. It is ideal for, if not indispensable to, the first course in the discipline."--Yuri Balashov, University of Georgia (on the previous edition) About the Author A.P. Martinich is Roy Allison Vaughan Centennial Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin.