

LECTURE 15: WITTGENSTEIN'S TRACTATUS

1. The picture theory of language (§2.1–2.2)

§2.16 “In order to be a picture a fact must have something in common with what it pictures.”

§2.18 “What every picture, of whatever form, must have in common with reality in order to be able to represent it at all — rightly or falsely — is the logical form, that is, the form of reality.”

2. The source of philosophical errors

§3.324 “Thus there easily arise the most fundamental confusions (of which the whole of philosophy is full).”

§3.325 “In order to avoid these errors, we must employ a symbolism which excludes them. . .”

§4.003 “Most propositions and questions, that have been written about philosophical matters, are not false, but senseless. . . Most questions and propositions of the philosophers result from the fact that we do not understand the logic of our language.”

3. The positive task of philosophy

§4.0031 “All philosophy is ‘Critique of language’.”

§4.111 “Philosophy is not one of the natural sciences.”

§4.112 “The object of philosophy is the logical clarification of thoughts.

Philosophy is not a theory but an activity.

A philosophical work consists essentially of elucidations.

The result of philosophy is not a number of ‘philosophical propositions’, but to make propositions clear.”

4. Saying versus showing

§4.1212 “What *can* be shown *cannot* be said.”