

LECTURE 16: FROM TRACTATUS TO LOGICAL SYNTAX OF LANGUAGE

1. Review: Picture theory of language

§4.0312 “My fundamental thought is that the ‘logical constants’ do not represent. That the *logic* of the facts cannot be represented.”

– syncategorematic terms

2. Review: Russell’s paradox and the theory of types

3. The source of all *philosophical* errors

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

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

4. Saying versus showing

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

§3.332 “No proposition can say anything about itself, because the propositional sign cannot be contained in itself (that is the ‘whole theory of types’).”

5. Reforming philosophy

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

§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.”

6. Getting rid of the mysterious ‘meaning’ of a sign

TLP §3.33 “In logical syntax the meaning of a sign ought never to play a role; it must admit of being established without mention being thereby made of the *meaning* of a sign; it ought to presuppose *only* the description of the expression.”

§3.331 “Russell’s error is shown by the fact that in drawing up his symbolic rules he has to speak of the meaning of the signs.”