

## LECTURE 19: PHILOSOPHY AND SYNTAX

1. Main thesis: All “legitimate” philosophical question are questions of (formal) logical syntax. (legitimate = scientific)  
§72 “... all philosophical problems which have any meaning belong to syntax.”
2. Types of questions
  - (a) Object questions
  - (b) Logical questions
    - i. Material
      - questions of meaning, sense, content
      - Carnap: either they yield to formal treatment, or they are psychological
    - ii. Formal / Syntactic
  - (c) Pseudo-object-questions
    - pseudo-object-sentences = quasi-syntactical sentences of the material mode of speech.
3. The logic of science (*Wissenschaftslogik*)
  - it does take up object questions, but only those that can be translated into syntax questions
  - pseudo-object-questions: “questions which because of a misleading formulation, appear to refer to objects while actually they refer to sentences, terms, theories, and the like — and are, accordingly, in reality, logical questions.” §73
  - testing philosophical questions for legitimacy: “translatability into the formal mode of speech — that is, into syntactical sentences — is the criterion which separates the proper sentences of the logic of science from the other philosophical sentences — we may call them metaphysical” §73
4. Sentences about “meaning” are pseudo-object-sentences.
5. Sentences with universal words are pseudo-object-sentences.
6. Relativizing philosophical sentences to a language

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|---|---|
| Five is not a thing but a number.             | ‘Five’ is not a thing word but a number word.       |
| Babylon was mentioned in yesterday’s lecture. | The word ‘Babylon’ occurred in yesterday’s lecture. |