Contents

Part I. Unicepts

Introduction to Part I 3
0.1 Overview 3
0.2 Selection Processes 4
0.3 Ontology and Language 6
0.4 Unicepts and Unitrackers 7
0.5 Organization and Method 9
0.6 Acknowledgments 10

1. A Clumpy World 11
1.1 Overview 11
1.2 Real Kinds 11
1.3 Reproduction and Mass Production 15
1.4 Historical Kinds 17
1.5 Individuals 18
1.6 Eternal Kinds 21
1.7 Shapes and Divisions of Historical Kind Clumps 22
1.8 Real Categories 24

2. Direct Reference for Extensional Terms 27
2.1 Overview 27
2.2 Conventions of Language 27
2.3 Following Precedent 30
2.4 Direct Reference to Clumps 32
2.5 Identifying through Language 34
2.6 Real Definitions 35
2.7 Names for Properties 36
2.8 Boundaries and Slippage 37
2.9 Communication with Names for Clumps and Peaks 39

3. Introducing Unitrackers and Unicepts 42
3.1 Overview 42
3.2 Initial Examples of Unitracker Function 43
3.3 Discarding Concepts 46
3.4 Details on the Nature and Function of Unicepts 49
3.5 Life Span and Growth of Unitrackers and Unicepts 51
3.6 How Names Connect with Unicepts 52
3.7 The Role of Language in Unicept Development 53
3.8 On Modeling Unicepts 54

4. Functions of Same-Tracking 56
4.1 Overview 56
4.2 Perceptual Constancy Mechanisms 56
4.3 Self-Relative Location Trackers 59
4.4 Object Constancy 60
4.5 Same-Tracking for Application of Unicept Templates 61
4.6 Practical Stuffs and Affording Unicepts 62
4.7 Factic Unicepts: Substantive and Attributive 66
4.8 Two Closing Remarks 68

5. How Unicepts Get Their Referents 70
5.1 Overview 70
5.2 How Unicept Referents Are Fixed: The Quarry 70
5.3 Two General Principles Concerning Functions 72
5.4 Imprinting 74
5.5 More General Mechanisms for Priming Unitrackers 75
5.6 Some Mechanisms that Set Targets, Specifically, for Affording Unicepts 76
5.7 The Problem of Location-Detached Signs 77
5.8 A Third General Principle: Proxy Functions 79
5.9 Natural Epistemology for Substantive and Attributive Unicepts 80

6. Misrepresentation, Redundancy, Equivocity, Emptiness (and Swampman) 84
6.1 Overview 84
6.2 Failures of Biological Function 84
6.3 False Beliefs 88
6.4 Redundant Unitrackers and Fregean Senses 89
6.5 Equivocepts 91
6.6 Vacucepts 93
6.7 How Unicepts Fit with Biosemantics 94
6.8 Swampman 95

7. Philosophical Analysis; Referents of Names: Theory Change; Observation versus Theory; Theory of Mind 97
7.1 Overview 97
7.2 Philosophical Analysis 97
7.3 Referents of Names 99
7.4 Theory Change in Science 101
7.5 Observation versus Theory 102
7.6 "Theory of Mind" 103

Part II. Infosigns, Intentional Signs, and their Interpretation

8. Introduction to Part II 109
8.1 Overview 109

8.2 Infosigns and Natural Information 109
8.3 Infosigns and Intentional Signs 111
8.4 Interpreting Linguistic Signs 112

9. Indexicals and Selfsigns 114
9.1 Overview 114
9.2 Assumptions to be Questioned 114
9.3 Components of Conventional Linguistic Signs 115
9.4 Preliminary Examples of Selfsigning Components 117
9.5 Indexicals and Demonstratives 120
9.6 Addendum on Intensional Contexts 122

10. An Anatomy of Signs 124
10.1 Overview 124
10.2 The Project 124
10.3 Infosigns Are Always Articulate and Often Productive 125
10.4 Equivocal Infosigns 127
10.5 Infosign Systems and Families 128
10.6 Variants and Invariants; Embedded Infosign Families 129
10.7 A Taxonomy of Infosign Variables 131
10.8 How a Language Is Put Together 136

11. Infosigns and Natural Information 137
11.1 Overview 137
11.2 The Project 137
11.3 Examples of Nonintentional Infosigns 139
11.4 Causal Connections; Dretske on Natural Information 140
11.5 Correlational Information 141
11.6 The Reference Class Problem 143
11.7 Addressing the Reference Class Problem 144
11.8 Using Infosigns 147
11.9 Correlations between Types of States of Affairs 149
11.10 Infosign Strength and Response Strength 150
11.11 Redundancy 151
11.12 Metacorrelations 152
11.13 Indirect Infosigns; Indirect Natural Information 153

12. Intentional Signs 155
12.1 Overview 155
12.2 The Project 155
12.3 Intentional Infosigns 156
12.4 Intentional Signs and Stabilizing Functions 159
12.5 Pure and Impure Intentional Signs 160
12.6 Entwining of Intentional Content and Nonintentional Information 161
12.7 Intentional Signs Used by Non-Human Animals 163
12.8 Maps, Charts, Diagrams, Graphs 163

12.9 Extending the Senses 164
12.10 Inner Representations 165

13. Linguistic Signs 167
13.1 Overview 167
13.2 The Topic 167
13.3 Semantic Meaning 170
13.4 Communicating with Language: The Broad Picture 173
13.5 Meta-Regularities and Extra-Semantic Infocontent 175
13.6 Grice's Conversational Maxims 176
13.7 Far-Side Pragmatic Meaning, or Semantic Meaning? 178
13.8 Addendum: Gricean Temptations 181

14. Perception, Especially Perception through Language 184
14.1 Overview 184
14.2 The Project 184
14.3 Perception as Sign Reading 185
14.4 Attached and Detached Signs, with an aside on Animal Cognition 187
14.5 Genuine Perception Thought of as Certain 190
14.6 The Contents of Perceptual Experience 193
14.7 Translating Linguistic Signs into Understanding 196
14.8 Replies to Objections 198

15. Markers of Identity and Grounded Infosigns 204
15.1 Overview 204
15.2 Selfsigns of Identity: Duplicate Markers; Strawson Markers 204
15.3 Anaphoric Signs of Identity 206
15.4 Grounding as Indicating Identity 208
15.5 Situated Signs; Counting up Signs 209
15.6 Recognizing Identity: A Reminder 210

16. Out-Side Pragmatics: Descriptions, Quantifiers, Directives 212
16.1 Overview 212
16.2 Three Kinds of Referent 212
16.3 Functions of the Definite and Indefinite Articles 213
16.4 Quantifiers, Possessives, and Proper Names 217
16.5 Thumbnail Review of Basic Themes 218

Glossary 221
Bibliography 227
Index 237