

Cruel Homework

Provide a compositional semantic theory that associates each of the following word-strings with a correct truth-condition (or in the case of ambiguity, correct truth-conditions) in a way that also helps explain any entailments due to meaning. Be sure to specify the domain in a theoretically perspicuous and metaphysically respectable way. Extra Credit: show that the theory is acquirable, in conditions of typical experience, given minimal nativist assumptions.

- (1) The sky is blue
- (2) Snow is white
- (3) It is blue, and they are white
- (4) My house, whose six rooms were painted white, was painted blue
- (5) This book is heavy, though it was favorably reviewed, and that one is available everywhere
- (6) If every unicycle has wheels, then these unicycles have wheels
- (7) Beavers build dams, and poems are written by fools like me
- (8) Beavers built those dams if and only if those dams were built by beavers
- (9) Birds can fly, except for those that can't; and pigs fly, except for those that don't
- (10) Every girl who saw a dog or a cat will get cake or ice cream unless she cleaned her room
- (11) While neither of us will go, I would go if I were you, and you would go if you were me
- (12) You may not go if it is raining
- (13) The weather here is lousy today
- (14) Pat married Chris, and we all drank champagne for an hour
- (15) Everyone drank the first glass in five minutes
- (16) Sherlocke Holmes said that if you ask the average man's wife whether he thinks that Hamlet grew up with his parents in Denmark, she'll say that he rarely thinks
- (17) This government does little for the sake of average Americans whose children will inherit the massive debt that is accumulating
- (18) Socrates was mortal and exists no more
- (19) Plato died, is dead, or will die
- (20) Triangles differ perceptibly from circles, but geometric figures are imperceptible
- (21) Aristotle was bald
- (22) Aristotle was a bald linguist
- (23) France is hexagonal, and it is a republic, though it used to be a monarchy
- (24) France is a hexagonal republic
- (25) My round square has a colorless green idea attached to each of its right angles