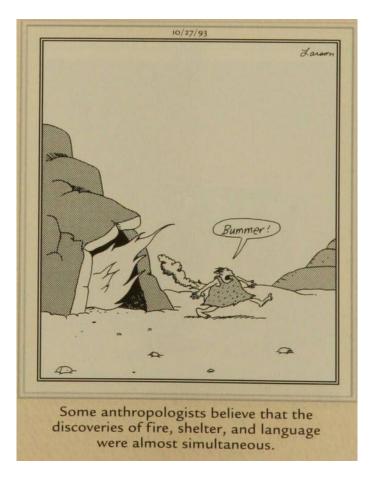
Lewis, 'Languages and Language'

- 1. 'It is a platitude—something only a philosopher would dream of denying—that there are conventions of language'. Is it a platitude that there are conventions of language in Lewis's sense? (See 'Objection: Language is not conventional', and Chomsky, 'What is language?', pp. 654-6.)
- 2. Explain and give a preliminary assessment of Lewis's theory of what it is for a language £ to be used by a population P. What is Lewis's theory of what it is for a sentence σ to mean that p in a language used by a population P?
- 3. Pick three or four of the more interesting objections Lewis discusses at the end. Are his replies convincing?
- 4. Hawthorne ('A note...') objects to Lewis, who replies in 'Meaning without use'. Hawthorne replies in 'Meaning and evidence'. Who wins?



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