

Towards an Analytic Pragmatism

Bob Brandom

Outline:

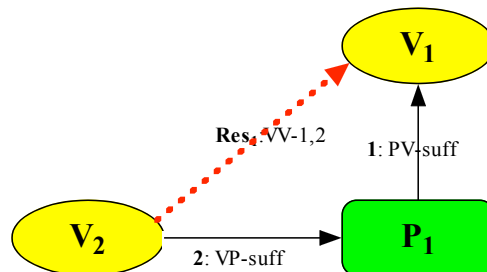
1. The classical project of philosophical analysis
2. The pragmatist challenge
3. Extending the project of analysis: pragmatically mediated semantic relations
4. Automata: syntactic PV-sufficiency and VP-sufficiency
5. The Chomsky hierarchy: a syntactic example of pragmatic expressive bootstrapping
6. Semantic examples of pragmatic expressive bootstrapping and further basic and resultant meaning-use relations

Analytic philosophy seeks to use *logical* vocabulary to make sense of the meanings expressed in some *target* vocabulary in terms of the meanings expressed in a *base* vocabulary.

Some candidates for the key kind of semantic relation between vocabularies include: analysis, definition, paraphrase, translation, entailment, reduction of different sorts, truth-making, supervenience.

Two core programs of analytic philosophy are empiricism and naturalism.

**Meaning-Use Diagram #1:
Pragmatic
Metavocabulary**



The conventions of this diagram are:

- Vocabularies are shown as ovals, practices-or-abilities as (rounded) rectangles.
- Basic meaning-use relations are indicated by solid arrows, numbered and labeled as to kind of relation.
- Resultant meaning-use relations are indicated by dotted arrows, numbered, and labeled as to kind and the basic MURs from which they result.

The idea is that a resultant MUR is the relation that obtains when all of the basic MURs listed on its label obtain.

My basic suggestion for extending the classical project of *analysis* so as to incorporate as essential positive elements the insights that animate the *pragmatist* critique of that project is that alongside these classical semantic relations between vocabularies we consider *pragmatically mediated* ones, of which the relation of being a pragmatic metavocabulary is a paradigm.