Abstract

The most detailed proposal of how to construct genuine meaning-theories from a broadly truth-theoretic perspective is also the most recent one: the account developed in a series of publications by Ernest Lepore and Kirk Ludwig (L&L). Unfortunately, the account fails. As I will show in this paper, L&L-style theories do not suffice to put someone into the position to understand the object-language. One of the fundamental problems proponents of truth-theoretic semantics must face — specifying the role a truth-theory is supposed to play within a meaning-theory — thus remains unsolved. The manner in which the current proposal fails may tentatively be taken to suggest a general pessimistic diagnosis; it may well be that there simply is no way to construct meaning-theories within a truth-theoretic framework.