

Metaphorical Content

I. Background notions.

- A. Propositions.
- B. What determines what something's propositional content is.
- C. Ways propositions are communicated.

II. Questions addressed in these lectures.

- A. Do metaphors have a special meaning or content?
- B. What determines what a metaphor's special content is?
- C. How is this content communicated?
- D. Can the special content of a metaphor always be given by a paraphrase?
- E. What does the use of metaphor in art criticism indicate about aesthetic experience?

III. Donald Davidson on what metaphors mean.

- A. The meaning and content of metaphors.
 - 1. Metaphors mean what the words of the sentence, in their most literal interpretation (given the context), mean.
 - 2. Metaphors do not have any meaning apart from this.
 - 3. Metaphors, and speakers using metaphor, say nothing apart from this.
 - 4. Metaphors do not have a propositional content associated with them that the speaker wishes to convey and that the interpreter must grasp if he is to get the message.
- B. The effects metaphors have on us.
 - 1. Metaphors just make us notice a likeness between two or more things.
 - 2. Metaphors make us see one thing as another.

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