Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus

Picture theory of meaning.
There are simples, and a procedure for compounding, and a decision theory.
All propositions have a truth value.
Any other sort of value - any aesthetic, social, cultural value -- is transcendental and lies outside of this theory. We can say nothing about it.

Philosophical Investigations

Example:
Chinese Room, Searle: syntax does not imply semantics
Voyager Golden Message

Knowledge != information
!= truth (since logic is pure)

Theories of language:
correspondence theory
picture theory
ostensive definition
axiomatic theory (no meaning, semantics)

Exercise:
Devise warning re. radioactive dumpsite, good for 10K years

Notions to read for:
Language game
How do descriptions work?
Composites
Rule following
Role of sensations, reporting pain
Critique of behaviouralism, psychologism (mentalism), naive realism
mental process 306++
Is private language possible?
XI Seeing.
Language game (think of Searle’s Chinese room)

Builders’ Block, Pillar, Slab Beam language game

12 words are like handles

§17 many words do not signify

9, 28, 38

Indexicals here, there (what do indexicals refer to??)

14, 15
Wirgenstein

trying to define tool by “tools modify xxx” hides diverse notions under “modify”
just as saying “words SIGNIFY xxx” hides diversity. (--- > family resemblances)

21
What’s difference between description and a command?

LIFEWORLD
§ 19
To imagine a language is to imagine a form of life
§ 23 Language games
“language is part of an activity, or of a form of life”
There are a multiplicity of language games
Lists kinds

Question the notion of ostensive definition. The relation between word and thing is mediated by form of life. §19. W. does not actually make a positive statement about what form of life means, but stops at its doorstep. Roger Hart: many subsequent writers who appeal to W. seem to use form of life as if it were positively, well defined.

Critique of correspondence Theory of meaning 27- 50
27
Exclamations
Language cannot just be correspondence to objects :
also things that do not exist (unicorn, angel), or disappear

28, 38
Pointing is ambiguous - Shawyer examples

31
Chess: Insufficient to explain (1) name Queen, or (2) point to piece say “Queen”, or (3) describe rules of use

39
example : EXCALIBER refers to sword, but which parts

47, 48
Problem of composites

Critique of Essence
“five”
§ 67  “face resemblance”
repudiated earlier picture theory

§ 48
Let us consider a language game for which this account [a blocks world language game] is really valid. The language serves to describe combinations of coloured squares on a surface. The squares form a complex like a chessboard. There are red, green, white and black squares. The words of the language are (correspondingly) "R", "G", "W", "B", and a sentence is a series of these words. They describe an arrangement of squares in the order:

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  1  2  3
  4  5  6
  7  8  9
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And so for instance the sentence "RRBFFFRWW" describes an arrangement of this sort:

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  R  R  B
  G  G  G
  W  
  
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Here the sentence is a complex of names, to which corresponds a complex of elements. The primary elements are the coloured squares. 'But are these simple?' -- I do not know what else you would have me call 'the simples', what would be more natural in this language-game. But under other circumstances I should call a monochromes square 'composite', consisting perhaps of two rectangles, or of the elements colour and shape. But the concept of complexity might also be so extended that a smaller area was said to be 'composed' of a greater area and another one subtracted from it. ...

But I do not know whether to say that the figure described by our sentence consists of four or nine elements! Well, does the sentence consist of four letters or of nine? -- And which are its elements, the types of letter, or the letters? Does it matter which we say, so long as we avoid misunderstandings in any particular case?"  (Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, 23-24, emphasis added.)
Wittgenstein: An PARADIGM, an example serves as an INSTRUMENT OF LANGUAGE, just as 1 meterstick in Paris is paradigm of the meter...

§ 51  predicate red is not an object

RULES
§ 53, 58, 83
Ex: Table lookup “Bring me a red flower” look up “red” see red swatch, ... then get flower of that color...

Think Searle

§ 60, 63
Further Analysis does not lead to more fundamental!
“The Broom is in the corner” -- the broomstick is there, and so is the brush, and the broomstick is fixed in the brush.

DOUG LENAT PROJECT CYC

LANGUAGE GAMES --> FAMILY RESEMBLANCES
§ 66
Plethora of games, do not share a common characteristic

§ 67  Family Resemblance
concepts are extensible,
example: number
no fixed memory “cold” 62 degrees F is relative
“chair” (§ 80) -- what if it refers to a thing that exists only intermittently, what happens to the meaning of the word ?? does “chair” still make sense even if the object does not exist? science depends on induction, sun rises... not deductive.

§ 70
Can concept be blurry?

§ 78  Knowing != Saying
How many feet MOnt Blanc -- FACT
How the word game is used -- BLURRY CONCEPT
How a clarinet sounds -- QUALIA

§ 80
Naming intermittent object chair.
Wittgenstein

Rules that define usage in any given language are never defined with absolute precision.

§83... Rule following
   Considered writing down 1,2,3,4,...

§86
How to read a table horiz L to R, T to B
or use Det(A) A = 3x3 matrix.

§88
"Inexact" is really a reprimand, and "exact" praise.
Language implicitly loaded with norms

§167 Family resemblance

Meaning comes through
   Use-theory of meaning (abandoned picture theory)
   or by bearer.

Wittgenstein does not have a total theory. Historically, often his project is a aimed at demystifying philosophy, moves from metaphysical language back to the ordinary.

There are no simples! §38-39, so there cannot be names.

Private language is impossible
because it depends rule-following which either depends on consensus (with other people), or on self's memory which is fallible.

§71 Critique Frege:
   Concept
   Theory comments on other things.
Knowing vs. Saying
   e.g I know what the sound of a flute is like, but I cannot say it.

§153 Against mental state

§201-202 Signs have no intrinsic meaning, even if graphical. "-----" plus words saying "go left"

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