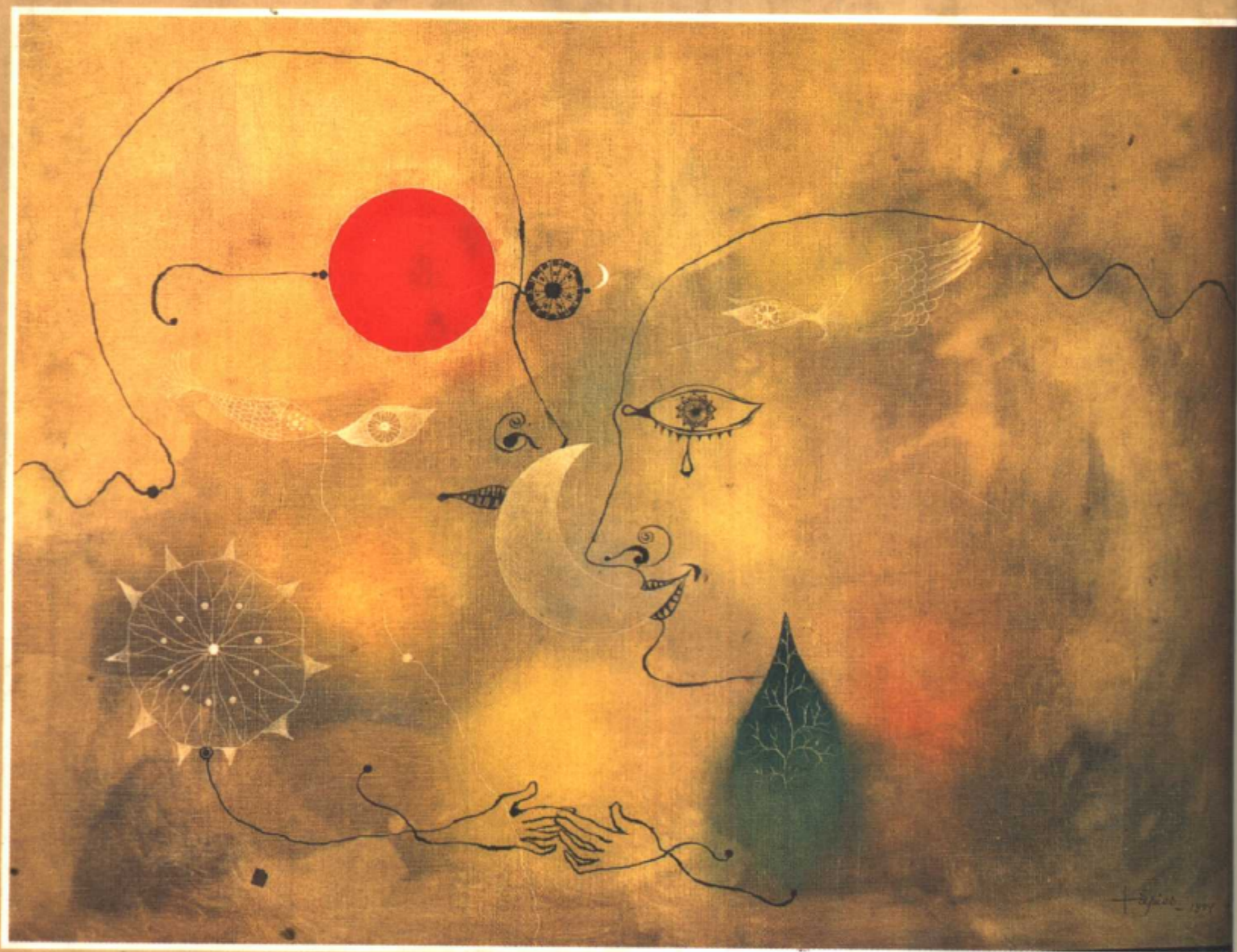


MODERN  
PHILOSOPHY  
OF LANGUAGE



edited by  
Maria Baghramian

Does language describe the world, or does it, in some way, construct our picture of reality? What is the relationship between names and the objects to which they refer? Can we think without language? Do we have an innate linguistic faculty or do we learn to speak by observing others?

These questions have always intrigued philosophers, beginning with the ancient Greeks. It was not until more recently, however, that discussions of language began to dominate philosophy. *Modern Philosophy of Language* brings together some of the most significant contributions to the study of language in twentieth-century philosophy. The articles collected here are benchmarks in the various strands of linguistic philosophy, from its very beginnings to the present.

Editor MARIA BAGHRAMIAN provides an insightful introduction to each author included in the collection, as well as a glossary and detailed chronology. *Modern Philosophy of Language* is not only an anthology, but a comprehensive tool for students and scholars of linguistic philosophy. Among the works reprinted or excerpted here are:

- BETRAND RUSSELL'S *Descriptions and Incomplete Symbols*, a clear statement of the key elements in his theory of descriptions.
- LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN'S *Philosophical Investigations*, a multi-layered work which argues against the assumption that there is a common nature to meaning and language.
- W. V. O. QUINE'S *Two Dogmas of Empiricism*, a ground-breaking critique of logical positivism and a statement of his theory on the web of belief.
- RUTH BARCAN MARCUS'S *Some Revisionary Proposals about Belief and Believing*, a critique of language-centered theories of belief which has acted as a corrective measure to extremist tendencies in the contemporary philosophy of language.
- NOAM CHOMSKY'S *Form and Meaning in Natural Languages*, an accessible exploration of the theory of Universal Grammar and the difference between linguistic performance and linguistic competence.

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**MODERN  
PHILOSOPHY  
OF LANGUAGE**

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**COUNTERPOINT**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

## NOTE ON THE EDITOR

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MARIA BAGHRAMIAN is a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, University College Dublin. She studied at Queen's University, Belfast, and Trinity College, Dublin, where she also taught for a number of years.

Her main interests are in philosophy of language and contemporary American philosophy. As well as a number of articles in various journals, she is the author of *The Problems of Relativism* (to be published by Routledge) and Review Editor of the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*. She is currently working on a book on Hilary Putnam in the Key Contemporary Thinkers series (Polity Press).

## NOTE ON THE TEXTS

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These essays appear in the following publications:

1. Gottlob Frege, 'On Sense and Reference', in *Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege*, edited by Peter Geach and Max Black, translated by Max Black (Oxford: Blackwell, 1952).
2. Bertrand Russell, 'Descriptions and Incomplete Symbols' from 'The Philosophy of Logical Atomism' in *Logic and Knowledge: Essays, 1901-1950* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1956).
3. Alfred Tarski, 'The Semantic Conception of Truth and the Foundations of Semantics', *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 4 (1944).
4. Rudolf Carnap, 'Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology', in *Meaning and Necessity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, enlarged edition, 1956). First appeared in *Review Internationale de Philosophie*, 4 (1950).
5. Ludwig Wittgenstein, extract from *Philosophical Investigations*, translated by G. E. M. Anscombe (Oxford: Blackwell, 1958).
6. J. L. Austin, 'Performatives and Constatives' (chapter I) and 'Conditions for Happy Performatives' (chapter II) in *How to do things with Words* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1962).
7. H. P. Grice, 'Meaning', in *Studies in the Way of Words* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989). First appeared in *Philosophical Review*, 66 (1957).
8. W. V. O. Quine, 'Two dogmas of Empiricism', in *From a Logical Point of View* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1953). First appeared in *Philosophical Review*, 60 (1951).
9. Donald Davidson, 'Belief and the Basis of Meaning', in *Inquiries into Truth and Interpretation* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984). First appeared in *Synthese*, 27, (1974).
10. Keith S. Donnellan, 'Reference and Definite Descriptions', *Philosophical Review*, 75, (1966).
11. Saul Kripke, extract from chapter 1 of *Naming and Necessity* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1980); the first of three talks which Kripke gave at Princeton University in January 1970.

12. Hilary Putnam, extract from 'The Meaning of "Meaning"', in *Mind, Language and Reality: Philosophical Papers*, vol. I (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975).
13. Gareth Evans, extract from 'Proper Names', chapter 11 of *The Varieties of Reference*, edited by J. McDowell (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982).
14. Ruth Barcan Marcus, 'Some Revisionary Proposals about Belief and Believing', in *Modalities: Philosophical Essays* (New York; Oxford University Press, 1993). First appeared in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, L (Supplement, 1990).
15. Noam Chomsky, 'Form and Meaning in Natural Languages', in *Language and Mind* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, revised edition, 1972).
16. Michael Dummett, 'What do I Know when I Know a Language?', in *The Seas of Language* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993); first published as a paper presented at the Centenary Celebrations, Stockholm University, May 1976.
17. Tyler Burge, 'Wherein is Language Social?', in Alexander George (ed.), *Reflections on Chomsky* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1989).
18. Ruth Garrett Millikan, 'Epilogue' to *Language, Thought, and Other Biological Categories* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984).

## CHRONOLOGY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

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*Events in the History of Modern Philosophy of Language and Related  
Year Fields*

1892 Gottlob Frege publishes 'On Sense and Reference' and 'Concept and Object'

1893 Frege, *The Basic Laws of Arithmetic*, vol. 1; F. H. Bradley, *Appearance and Reality*

1900 Edmund Husserl, *Logical Investigations*. Bertrand Russell meets Giuseppe Peano in Paris at the First World Congress of Philosophy.

## CHRONOLOGY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

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<i>Year</i>	<i>Scientific, Artistic and Cultural Events</i>	<i>Historical and Political Events</i>
1892	Hendrik Lorentz and George FitzGerald establish the principle of contraction of objects at high speed. First automatic telephone exchange is opened in USA. Rudolf Diesel patents a new type of internal combustion engine. Ruggero Leoncavallo's opera <i>I Pagliacci</i> . Maurice Maeterlinck, <i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i> , incidental music by Claude Debussy. Claude Monet begins his series of paintings of Rouen Cathedral	Gladstone forms a Liberal government in Britain. Grover Cleveland wins US presidential election
1893	Karl Benz's four-wheeled car. Egbert Judson invents the zip fastener. Oscar Wilde's play, <i>A Woman of No Importance</i>	Independent Labour Party established under Keir Hardie. France extends its colonies to Ivory Coast and French Guinea and acquires protectorate over Laos. The second Irish Home Rule Bill is rejected by the House of Lords. Boxer Rebellion begins in China. William McKinley wins American presidential election
1900	Quantum theory initiated by Max Planck. Gregor Mendel's 1860s work on genetics is rediscovered and initiates the new science of genetics. Sigmund Freud, <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> . Oscar Wilde dies	



- Events in the History of Modern Philosophy of Language and Related  
Year Fields*
- 1902 Russell informs Frege in a letter that the fifth axiom used in his *Groundwork of Arithmetic* makes the system inconsistent. Alexius von Meinong publishes *On Assumptions*
- 1903 Frege publishes the second volume of *The Basic Laws of Arithmetic*, with a hasty response to Russell's paradox added as an appendix. Russell, *Principles of Mathematics*; G. E. Moore, 'Refutation of Idealism' and *Principia Ethica*
- 1905 Russell, 'On Denoting'; Ernst Mach, *Knowledge and Error*; Meinong, 'Theory of Objects'
- 1907 William James, *Pragmatism*. Otto Neurath, Hans Hahn (a mathematician) and Philip Frank (a physicist) initiate a discussion group about philosophy, science and methodology which eventually becomes known as the Vienna Circle
- 1910 Russell and A. N. Whitehead, *Principia Mathematica*, vol. I
- 1912 Ludwig Wittgenstein, on the advice of Frege, begins studying with Russell in Cambridge. Luitzen Brouwer, *Intuitionism and Formalism*
- 1914 Russell, *Our Knowledge of the External World*; F. H. Bradley, *Essays on Truth and Reality*; C. D. Broad, *Perception, Physics, and Reality*
- 1915 Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*

Year	<i>Scientific, Artistic and Cultural Events</i>	<i>Historical and Political Events</i>
1902	Ernest Rutherford and Fredrick Soddy, <i>The Cause and Nature of Radioactivity</i> . Gustav Mahler, Symphony No. 5. Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> . <i>The Times Literary Supplement</i> starts publication	The Boer War, which had begun in 1989, ends. Trotsky and Lenin meet in exile
1903	The Wright brothers conduct the first successful powered aeroplane flight. Bernard Shaw's play, <i>Man and Superman</i>	Emmeline Pankhurst founds the Women's Social and Political Union in Britain
1905	Albert Einstein publishes his Special Theory of Relativity. Pablo Picasso, <i>Acrobat and Young Harlequin</i> , <i>Boy With Pipe</i> ; Paul Cezanne, <i>Les Grandes Baigneuse</i> . Debussy, <i>La Mer</i> . The Bloomsbury Group of intellectuals comes into existence and is influenced by G. E. Moore's <i>Principia Ethica</i>	Unrest in Russia, including the 'Bloody Sunday' in St Petersburg and mutiny of sailors on the battleship <i>Potemkin</i> , culminates in a general strike and the formation of the first Soviet
1907	Cubist exhibition in Paris. Rainer Maria Rilke, <i>Neue Gedichte</i> (New Poems). J. M. Synge's play <i>The Playboy of the Western World</i>	Irish nationalist party, Sinn Féin, is formed
1910	Marie Curie publishes <i>Treatise on Radiography</i> . Igor Stravinsky, <i>The Firebird</i> . E. M. Forster, <i>Howard's End</i>	Revolution in Portugal which leads to the declaration of a republic. Japan formally annexes Korea
1912	Alfred Wegener proposes the theory of continental drift. Robert Falcon Scott reaches the South Pole. Arnold Schoenberg, <i>Pierrot Lunaire</i>	Provisional republic established in China. War between Turkey and the Balkan states
1914	Ernest Rutherford discovers the proton. James Joyce, <i>Dubliners</i>	Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife assassinated at Sarajevo. First World War begins
1915	Einstein publishes his General Theory of Relativity. Pablo Picasso, <i>Harlequin</i> . Ezra Pound, <i>Cathay</i> (poems)	Turkey begins the systematic genocide of its Armenian minority population

*Events in the History of Modern Philosophy of Language and Related  
Year Fields*

1918 Russell, *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism*

1921 Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*; John McTaggart, *The Nature of Existence*, vol. I

1922 Moritz Schlick takes up the Chair of Philosophy in Vienna and gives stronger direction to the Vienna Circle. English translation of *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*; G. E. Moore, *Philosophical Papers*

1927 Martin Heidegger, *Sein und Zeit*; Russell, *The Analysis of Matter*

1928 Rudolph Carnap, *The Logical Structure of the World*; David Hilbert, *Principles of Mathematical Logic*; Hans Reichenbach, *The Philosophy of Time and Space*

1929 Wittgenstein returns to Cambridge; Carnap, Hahn and Neurath publish the logical positivist manifesto, *The Scientific World View: the Vienna Circle*; John Dewey, *Experience and Nature*; C. I. Lewis, *Mind and the World Order*

Year	<i>Scientific, Artistic and Cultural Events</i>	<i>Historical and Political Events</i>
1918	Stravinsky's ballet, <i>Histoire du Soldat</i> . Picasso, <i>Harlequin with Guitar</i> . Rupert Brooke, <i>Collected Poems</i> (posthumously)	First World War ends. Tsar Nicholas II and his family are executed by the Bolsheviks who gain control of the government. The British government announces the abandonment of Home Rule in Ireland
1921	Discovery of insulin by Frederick Banting and C. H. Best. Sergey Prokofiev's opera, <i>The Love of Three Oranges</i> . J. M. Keynes, <i>A Treatise on Probability</i> . D. H. Lawrence, <i>Women in Love</i> . Luigi Pirandello's play, <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>	Irish Free State established. Wartime Allies fix Germany's reparation payments at Paris Conference; Germany has difficulties in meeting these payments and faces economic and political crisis. 35 Fascists are returned in the Italian parliamentary elections
1922	James Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i> . T. S. Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i>	The British-Irish Treaty is ratified in Dáil Éireann. A two-year civil war begins and the Irish leader, Michael Collins, is assassinated. Fascists march on Rome; Mussolini forms a government. Establishment of USSR
1927	Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. Marcel Proust, <i>Le Temps Retrouvé</i> (posthumously); Virginia Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	Trotsky is expelled from Russian Communist Party. Adolf Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i> , vol. 2 (vol. 1 published 1925)
1928	Dirac's Equation combines quantum mechanics with special relativity. Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin. Geiger and Müller construct the Geiger counter. Arthur Eddington, <i>The Nature of the Physical World</i> . D. H. Lawrence, <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i>	Chiang Kai-shek elected President of China. Herbert Hoover becomes President of USA
1929	Werner Heisenberg and Wolfgang Pauli propose quantum field theory. Second Surrealist Manifesto; Salvador Dali joins the group. Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i>	Wall Street stock market collapses, leading to economic depression in America and Europe. Labour wins the first general election held under universal adult suffrage in Britain

*Events in the History of Modern Philosophy of Language and Related  
Year Fields*

- 1931 Alfred Tarski, 'The Concept of Truth in Formalized Languages'. Kurt Gödel's incompleteness theorem is published in his paper 'On Formally Undecidable Propositions in *Principia Mathematica* and related systems'. Schlick, 'The Turning Point in Philosophy'; Neurath, *Empirical Sociology*
- 1932 Carnap, *The Unity of Science*
- 1935 Carnap emigrates to America and takes an academic position in Chicago in 1936. Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*
- 1936 Schlick is assassinated by a student. A. J. Ayer publishes *Language, Truth and Logic* which popularizes logical positivism in Britain
- 1938 The Vienna Circle's branch in Vienna is officially dissolved. Carnap, 'Logical Foundations of the Unity of Science'. J. L. Austin begins his ordinary-language philosophy programme in Oxford
- 1939 Carnap, *Foundations of Logic in Mathematics*
- 1945 Frege's *Nachlaß* is destroyed in a bombing raid on Münster

Year	<i>Scientific, Artistic and Cultural Events</i>	<i>Historical and Political Events</i>
1931	Karl Jansky pioneers radio astronomy through the discovery of radio emission from the Milky Way	Japan occupies parts of Manchuria
1932	James Chadwick discovers the neutron. Carl David Anderson discovers positrons. Aldous Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i> . Bertolt Brecht's play <i>The Mother</i> . Henri Matisse, <i>Dance I and II</i> .	Roosevelt elected US President. Famine in the USSR. Mahatma Gandhi returns to India and begins the civil disobedience movement
1935	Robert Watson-Watt's team of scientists develops first radar. Richter scale developed by C. F. Richter. Alban Berg, Violin Concerto. George Gershwin's opera <i>Porgy and Bess</i> . T. S. Eliot, <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>	At the Nazi Party rally Hitler announces the anti-Jewish Nuremberg Laws. Italy invades Ethiopia
1936	Prokofiev's opera <i>Peter and the Wolf</i> . Alan Turing's paper, 'Computable Numbers'. J. M. Keynes, <i>A General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money</i> . W. H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood, <i>The Ascent of F6</i>	Germany reoccupies the Rhineland. Spanish Civil War begins with an army mutiny led by General Francisco Franco. Chiang Kai-shek declares war on Japan. Berlin-Rome axis announced by Mussolini. Germany and Japan sign anti-Comintern Pact
1938	The German physicists Otto Hahn and F. Strassmann discover nuclear fission by splitting the uranium atom	Germany invades and annexes Austria. Kristallnacht pogrom against Jews in Germany. Munich Agreement offers 'peace in our time'
1939	James Joyce, <i>Finnegans Wake</i> ; John Steinbeck, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Second World War begins. Spanish Civil War ends with the defeat of the Republicans by General Franco's Nationalists
1945	First atomic explosion in the New Mexico desert. George Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i> ; Jean-Paul Sartre, <i>The Age of Reason</i> (English translation 1947)	US drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending Second World War

*Events in the History of Modern Philosophy of Language and Related  
Year Fields*

1946 Ruth Barcan Marcus develops the first quantified modal logic

1947 Carnap, *Meaning and Necessity*

1951 W. V. O. Quine, 'Two Dogmas of Empiricism'. Wittgenstein dies in  
Cambridge

1953 Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (posthumously); Quine, *From  
a Logical Point of View*

1955 Nelson Goodman, *Fact, Fiction and Forecast*

Year	<i>Scientific, Artistic and Cultural Events</i>	<i>Historical and Political Events</i>
1946	John Von Neumann's team builds one of the first electronic computers. Albert Camus, <i>The Outsider</i>	First meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. Winston Churchill delivers 'Iron Curtain' speech in Fulton, Missouri, which signals the onset of the Cold War. Italy becomes a republic. The Nuremberg Trials establish that individuals can be guilty of war crimes and crimes against the international law
1947	ENIAC (Electronic, Numerator, Integrator, Analyser, and Computer), electronic, multi-purpose digital computer produced at University of Pennsylvania. Camus, <i>The Plague</i> ; Anne Frank, <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> . Tennessee Williams' play, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	India and Pakistan gain their independence. Communism takes hold in Hungary and Romania
1951	UNIVAC 1 computers made commercially available. Henry Moore, <i>Reclining Figure</i> . Stravinsky's opera, <i>The Rake's Progress</i> ; Benjamin Britten's opera, <i>Billy Budd</i> . J. D. Salinger, <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> ; Sartre, <i>Le Diable et Le Bon Dieu</i>	North Korean and Chinese forces break the UN lines and take Seoul. Churchill returns as British Prime Minister after five years in opposition
1953	Francis Crick and James Watson discover the double helix structure of DNA. Dimitri Shostakovitch, Symphony No. 10. Arthur Miller's play, <i>The Crucible</i>	Joseph Stalin dies. Korean War ends
1955	Clyde Cowan and Fred Reines, at the Los Alamos Laboratory, detect neutrinos. Herbert Marcuse, <i>Eros and Civilization</i> . Vladimir Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i> . Samuel Beckett's play, <i>Waiting for Godot</i>	Agreement on European Union between France and Germany is ratified in Paris. Formation of the Warsaw Pact. Juan Peron resigns and is exiled from Argentina



*Events in the History of Modern Philosophy of Language and Related  
Year Fields*

- 1957 Chomsky ushers in the new age of linguistics with *Syntactic Structures*.  
G. E. M. Anscombe, *Intention*
- 1959 Chomsky publishes his review of B. F. Skinner's *Verbal Behavior* which  
effectively puts an end to behaviourism; P. F. Strawson, *Individuals*
- 1960 Quine, *Word and Object*; A. J. Ayer, *Logical Positivism*
- 1961 J. L. Austin, *Philosophical Papers* (posthumously)
- 1962 Austin, *Sense and Sensibilia* and *How to do things with Words*  
(posthumously); Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
- 1963 J. J. Katz and Jerry Fodor, 'The Structure of a Semantic Theory'; Popper,  
*Conjectures and Refutations*