

24.119 Minds and Machines

Problem Set 6. Assigned in class #9. Due in class #10.

NB: *no* quotations, *no* paraphrases; answer in your own words.

1. Are all emeralds grue?

(Answer yes/no.)

2. According to Davidson:

- (a) The same event (e.g. the Superbowl) can occur at different times (e.g. each year).
- (b) There are no strict laws connecting mental events with mental events.
- (c) There are no strict laws connecting mental events with physical events.
- (d) "All emeralds are grue" is not lawlike.
- (e) There are no psychophysical laws.
- (f) Dennett is right to say that false beliefs "grow in a culture medium of true beliefs".

(Answer yes/no to each; (e), in particular, requires some thought.)

3. "The strategy will probably work to show every event to be mental" (p. 118)

- (i) Explain what "the strategy" is, and why Davidson thinks it will probably show that every event is mental.
- (ii) Explain why it doesn't matter "for present purposes" that every event is mental.

4. Explain what a heteronomic generalization is, and give two plausible examples of such. Now do the same for homonomic generalizations. Does Davidson think that psychophysical generalizations are homonomic or heteronomic?

5. Set out, in premise/conclusion form, Davidson's "demonstration of identity" on p. 124.

6. "In the case of supposed M-M* causation..does not constitute a causal process" (p. 177). In a paragraph or two, explain Kim's point (extra credit for offering an objection to Kim).
