24.251 – Intro to the Philosophy of Language
Problem Set 7: The Foster Problem

1. What, according to Foster, is the problem with the original version of Davidson’s proposal?
   (a) Davidson has no good way of dealing with belief sentences and other intensional contexts.
   (b) Davidson gives us no way of actually figuring out which sentences of the language under consideration are true.
   (c) A Davidsonian theory of meaning might be consistent with many different interpretations of the language under consideration.
   (d) None of the above.

2. What, according to Foster, is the problem with the revised version of Davidson’s proposal?
   (a) Davidsonian considerations of charity are misapplied.
   (b) Davidson has not been able to formulate a theory that doesn’t appeal to intentional idioms and states something knowledge of which is sufficient to interpret the language.
   (c) There is a disparity between the weakness of what T-sentences state and the constraints on their construction.
   (d) None of the above.

3. How does Foster think the problems he raises ought to be addressed?
   (a) By renouncing considerations of Charity.
   (b) By requiring a theory of meaning to state not just what it takes for a sentence to be true, given the way the world actually is, but also what it would take for a sentence to be true had the world been otherwise.
   (c) By taking the meaning of a sentence to be a possible world.
   (d) None of the above.