

On Knowledge Representation and Meaning

Table of contents

1 On Knowledge Representation and Meaning.....	2
2 Separating Truth and Meaning.....	2

1. On Knowledge Representation and Meaning

An understanding of knowledge representation entails an understanding of meaning. For how could one represent some unit of knowledge without knowing what it meant? Yes, a particular unit of information represents a unit of knowledge by virtue of the fact that it has meaning.

For sometime now I have been thinking about what it would take to develop a normal form for knowledge. I needed to have a knowledge representation vehicle which would be able to capture logical claims in an unambiguous way. This knowledge representation vehicle would include:

- a Universe of Discourse containing all identities talked about
- a set of functions, called associators (included in the universe of discourse) which would define associations between objects in the universe of discourse.

2. Separating Truth and Meaning

Based on this knowledge representation vehicle a language would be designed allowing arbitrarily complex claims to be made about objects in the universe of discourse. The language would be such that it would distinguish between two things I consider especially important in this regard:

- for all expressions in the language the *truth-value* would be defined
- for all expressions in the language the *meaning* (or the *significance*) would be defined.

Just like the knowledge representation vehicle represents knowledge as a set of logical claims, the significance, or the meaning, of an expression in this language would also be a claim.

Here is the paper I wrote on this subject in [PDF](#). I'm developing a discourse management system based in the foundation presented in this paper.