

Eliatic Strategies for E-Representation

Three grades (or strategies) of Eliaticism about achievement of semantic success, in making semantic contact with objective reality.

These are candidate readings of Price's place-holder metaconcept of "e-representation":

Using the locutions of the target vocabulary in:

- 1) *Causal* explanations of achievement of *knowledge* by using the target vocabulary.
- 2) Best explanations of the *success* of the practice (even if that success is only partial) involve use of the target vocabulary.
- 3) Pragmatic metavocabulary specification of the practice that is adequate for some other purpose [insert parameter here] makes essential use of the ground-level target vocabulary for which it is a metavocabulary.

Compare: David Lewis's frankly vocabulary-relative method for deciding what you are really talking about by using a target vocabulary:

- i) Ramsify your target theory (maybe leaving causal or alethic modal terms unRamsified), then
- ii) pick out best realizers of the functional roles so specified, with the realizers specified in one's favorite (privileged) base or use vocabulary.

This Ramsify + Realizers strategy incorporates a *double* dependence on vocabulary choice:

- First, one must pick which bits of *target* vocabulary to Ramsify (= replace with variables bound by quantifiers—typically at least second-order predicate variable, bound by wide-scope higher-order existential quantifiers) and which to hold fixed (e.g. but not necessarily, "causes").
- Then one must settle on a privileged *base* vocabulary in which to specify the proposed *realizers* of the functional roles defined by the Ramsified theory.