

September 5, 2023

Notes for Week Two:

Descriptivism,  
Rules, Norms, and Practices,  
Inferentialism

Plan:

Part I (LRB):

- a) Introduction: From Habits to Rules
- b) Descriptivism, Psychologism, Representationalism
- c) From object naturalism to subject naturalism.

Part II (SRLG):

- a) Obeying vs. Conforming to Rules
  - i. Regulism (“Rampant Platonism”)
  - ii. Objection to Regulism
  - iii. Regularism (“Bald Naturalism”)
  - iv. Objection to Regularism
- b) Sellars’s solution: Pattern-governed behavior
- c) Diagnosis of common assumption.
- d) Normative, social functionalism: from pragmatics to semantics, use to meaning.

Part III (IM):

- a) From labeling to describing.
- b) Subjunctive robustness of implications. Description and explanation intertwined.
- c) Modal Kant-Sellars thesis and critique of naïve Lewisian conception of possible worlds.