

On the So-Called Dependent (Embedded) Questions

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In general theory of questions, the more and more important role is played by analysis of dependent questions, i.e. of expressions which

- (i) are parts of compound questions and
- (ii) are isomorphic with some independent questions (scil. questions *sensu stricto*).

One may meet the tendency to explicate the sense of independent questions by the sense of dependent ones, e.g. the sense of questions such as:

- (1) Where is Budapest situated?

is explicated by the sense of sentences such as:

- (2) A knows where Budapest is situated.

where (2) contains (1) as a part.

The analysis of dependent questions is often the point of departure of constructing settheoretical or possible-worlds semantics for independent questions. In my opinion, these tendencies are abortive and lead to irrelevant explications of the sense of questions *sensu stricto*.

But on the other hand, semiotic functions of the so-called dependent questions as parts of compound expressions require deeper analysis. My paper contains a proposal of such an analysis.