On the So-Called Dependent (Embedded) Questions

Anna Brożek
broscius@gmail.com

Department of Logical Semiotics, Warsaw University

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.