

**Phil 397
The Mind/Body Problem**

**Fall 1995
Professor JeeLoo Liu**

**Jerry Fodor: The Mind-body Problem
[Handout #2]**

§ Fodor's Theory of Mental Representation

1. Mental states have qualitative content and intentional content

*** qualitative content = qualia**

==> the intrinsic qualitative content of our experiences

*** intentional content = "about" other things**

___ To say that a mental state has intentional content is to say that it has certain semantic properties: meaning, truth, reference.

2. Mental symbols (mental representations) also have semantic properties.

3. S has a belief that P = S is related to the mental representation that expresses P.

4. Functionalism: The semantic properties of a mental representation are determined by aspects of its functional role (in terms of causal relations).

§ Fodor's position:

- 1. Mental representation is the right notion to use in explaining human mentality**
- 2. Functionalism legitimizes the notion of mental representation.**
- 3. Therefore functionalism is a plausible view, or at least one of the plausible views, on human mind.**

§ Fodor's Individualism:

___ The view that if one fixes those non-intentional physical and functional states and processes of a person's body whose nature is specifiable without reference to conditions beyond the person's bodily surfaces, one has thereby fixed the person's intentional mental states and processes--in the sense that they could not be different intentional states and processes from the one that they are.

- (T1) An individual's intentional states are *fixed upon* the individual's non-intentional physical and functional states, in the sense that once the physical and functional states are given, the intentional states cannot be otherwise.**
- (T2) The individuation of an individual's intentional states is independent of what goes on outside of the individual's body (such as the individual's physical or social environment).**

§ Functionalism and Individualism:

- 1. Functional individuation is individuation in respect of aspects of causal role.
(What determines which kind a mental particular belongs to is its causal role in the mental life of the organism.)**
- 2. With respect to the causal roles of mental particulars, what matters is only the physical and functional states and processes of a person's body.**
- 3. Therefore, Individualism is true.**