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## Part I

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## Preliminaries

"Statistical considerations are essential to an understanding of the operation and development of languages"

(Lyons 1968: 98)

"One's ability to produce and recognize grammatical utterances is not based on notions of statistical approximation and the like" (Chomsky 1957: 16)

"You say: the point isn't the word, but its meaning, and you think of the meaning as a thing of the same kind as the word, though also different from the word. Here the word, there the meaning. The money, and the cow that you can buy with it. (But contrast: money, and its use.)"

(Wittgenstein 1968, Philosophical Investigations, §120)

"For a large class of cases—though not for all—in which we employ the word 'meaning' it can be defined thus: the meaning of a word is its use in the language." (Wittgenstein 1968, §43)

"Now isn't it queer that I say that the word 'is' is used with two different meanings (as the copula and as the sign of equality), and should not care to say that its meaning is its use; its use, that is, as the copula and the sign of equality?" (Wittgenstein 1968, §561) This excerpt from

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