

The thesis proposes to address the mind-body problem, and specifically the question of scientific explanation of consciousness, in terms of language and meaning. First, the core of the mind-problem is identified with Kant's transcendental unity of apperception and the distinction between empirical and transcendental consciousness is emphasized. Empirical consciousness, as consciousness of something, is assumed to be best approached by a higher-order theory of consciousness. Then various aspects of meaning, intentionality and language in use are discussed to prepare ground for the conclusion that transcendental conditions of consciousness are entailed by conditions of being a genuine speaker of language. Thus language can be said to be constitutive of consciousness not only in the sense that the behavioural criteria for attributing consciousness are essentially linguistic, but also in the sense that consciousness comes with the ability to speak.