

Questions as Conclusions

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Let us consider:

- (1) *Andrew gave a talk. If so, he either believed what he was talking about, or was lying. Did Andrew believe what he was talking about, or was he lying?*

Statement (1) describes an inference leading from declaratives to a question. The following:

- (2) *Did Andrew believe what he was talking about, or was he lying? He believed if he spoke slowly, but if he spoke quickly, he was lying. How did Andrew speak: slowly or quickly?*

describes an inference in which one passes from a question on the basis of declaratives to a question.

Inferences that lead to a question are labelled *erotetic* (from Greek "erotema", meaning "question"). Some erotetic inferences are intuitively valid, while others are not. Yet, validity is a semantic notion. On the other hand, questions are neither true nor false. Thus in order to explicate the relevant notion of validity one has to elaborate a conceptual apparatus capable of providing a semantic account of questions. The aim of my talk is to present how Inferential Erotetic Logic (IEL) resolves this problem and how validity of erotetic inferences is defined in IEL.

References:

Andrzej Wiśniewski, *The Posing of Questions. Logical Foundations of Erotetic Inferences*, Kluwer, Dordrecht/Boston/London 1995.

Andrzej Wiśniewski, *Questions, Inferences, and Scenarios*. College Publications, London 2013.

