

## Two Arguments for Semantic Indeterminacy

### Quine's Argument

- (1) "[T]he very facts about meaning... must be construed in terms of behavior"  
[Quine's Behaviorism]
- (2) There are semantic facts which determine the correct translation manual for a language.  
[Assume for *reductio*]
- (3) So, behavioral facts determine the correct translation manual for a language.  
[From (1), (2)]
- (4) The evidence (behavior and behavioral dispositions) does not determine a unique translation manual for the language.  
[From Quine-Duhem Underdetermination]
- (5) There are no semantic facts which determine the correct translation manual for a language.  
[*Reductio* of (2), by the contradiction at (3) and (4)].

### A Behaviorism-Free Version (D. Bar-On)

- (1) Any semantic fact must be knowable by speakers of the language.  
[The thesis of "Semantic Accessibility"]
- (2) There are semantic facts which determine the correct translation manual for a language.  
[Assume for *reductio*]
- (3) So, speakers are able to know these semantic facts.  
[From (1), (2)]
- (4) The evidence (behavior and behavioral dispositions) does not single out a unique translation manual for the language.  
[From Quine-Duhem Underdetermination]
- (5) If (4) is true, then speakers cannot know the semantic facts which determine the correct translation manual for a language.  
[Assumption]
- (6) So, speakers cannot know the semantic facts which determine the correct translation manual for a language.  
[from (4), (5)]
- (7) There are no semantic facts which determine the correct translation manual for a language.  
[*Reductio* of (2), by the contradiction at (3) and (6)].