ABSTRACT

NAME OF INSTITUTION: De La Salle University-Dasmarinas

ADDRESS: Dasmarinas, Cavite

TITLE: An Analysis of Ludwig Wittgenstein's Tool/Use Theory of Meaning: A Method Towards the Dissolution of Philosophical Problems

AUTHORS: Gerald William C. Paragas and Ruzzelle S. Estole

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

A. GENERAL:

An analysis of the development of Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein's Tool/Use Theory of Meaning so as to dissolve philosophical problems.

B. SPECIFIC:

1. An analysis of the philosophical problems dissolved by Wittgenstein.

2. An analysis of the manner of Wittgenstein's dissolution of these philosophical problems.

3. An analysis of the effectivity of Wittgenstein's Tool/Use Theory of Meaning as à method in dissolving these philosophical problems.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION:

This study aimed to find out how Wittgenstein developed his Tool/Use Theory of Meaning. First, the study discussed the specific philosophical tenets of Plato,

Descartes, and the Early Wittgenstein's Tractatus considered by Wittgenstein as philosophical problems. Second, the study proceeded to discuss how Wittgenstein dissolved philosophical problems by using his Tool/Use Theory of Meaning. Finally, the study revealed the effectivity of the Tool/Use Theory of Meaning as a method.

METHODOLOGY:

This study utilized the Descriptive Research Design. It was achieved through the research of Wittgenstein as primary source, specifically his book entitled 'Philosophical Investigations', and some of his secondary sources which served as guides for the researchers to analyze and interpret Wittgenstein's original work so as to attain the set objectives.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

The researchers found out that Wittgenstein's philosophy was molded by his repudiation first of Plato's Idealism, specifically his Theory of Forms characterized by commonality, sameness, and universality. He insisted that there was no commonality of things, only similarities. Second was his rejection of Descartes' Mental Processes and Sensations held to be as private experiences. For Wittgenstein these experiences were publicly observable. Finally, Wittgenstein's rejection of his early work - the Tractatus. For him the real meaning of a word or a proposition was based on its use or function and not on its one - on - one correspondence with reality.

CONCLUSIONS:

The researchers observed that the valid determination of meaning in language

was to apply the Tool/Use Theory of Meaning based on the Wittgensteinian viewpoint of analyzing language. The application of this theory revealed the multiciplicity of meaning of a particular word or proposition because meaning was completely dependent on how it was actually used in a given context.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the conducted study, the researchers recommend to the possible readers of this research to further contribute through research on Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Language, primarily, the philosopher's second work entitled 'Philosophical Investigations.' in providing more substantial clarifications and explanations of Wittgenstein's main tenets on the analysis of language, particularly, on the problems of meaning.