§ Fodor's Theory of Mental Representation

1. Mental states have qualitative content and intentional content

* qualitative content = qualia
  ==> the intrinsic qualitative content of our experiences

* intentional content = "about" other things
  --- To say that a mental state has intentional content is to say that it has certain semantic properties: meaning, truth, reference.

2. Mental symbols (mental representations) also have semantic properties.

3. S has a belief that P = S is related to the mental representation that expresses P.

4. Functionalism: The semantic properties of a mental representation are determined by aspects of its functional role (in terms of causal relations).

§ Fodor's position:
1. Mental representation is the right notion to use in explaining human mentality
2. Functionalism legitimizes the notion of mental representation.
3. Therefore functionalism is a plausible view, or at least one of the plausible views, on human mind.

§ Fodor's Individualism:
--- The view that if one fixes those non-intentional physical and functional states and processes of a person's body whose nature is specifiable without reference to conditions beyond the person's bodily surfaces, one has thereby fixed the person's intentional mental states and processes--in the sense that they could not be different intentional states and processes from the one that they are.

(T1) An individual's intentional states are fixed upon the individual's non-intentional physical and functional states, in the sense that once the physical and functional states are given, the intentional states cannot be otherwise.

(T2) The individuation of an individual's intentional states is independent of what goes on outside of the individual's body (such as the individual's physical or social environment).
§ Functionalism and Individualism:

1. Functional individuation is individuation in respect of aspects of causal role. (What determines which kind a mental particular belongs to is its causal role in the mental life of the organism.)
2. With respect to the causal roles of mental particulars, what matters is only the physical and functional states and processes of a person's body.
3. Therefore, Individualism is true.