A first shot would be to suggest that “x meant something” would be true if x was intended by its utterer to induce a belief in some “audience” and that to say what the belief was would be to say what x meant. This will not do. I might leave B’s handkerchief near the scene of a murder in order to induce the detective to believe that B was the murderer; but we should not want to say that the handkerchief (or my leaving it there) meant anything or that I had meant by leaving it that B was the murderer.