

No Reference Without Referents¹

(Sin referentes no hay referencia)

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Abstract

Sainsbury (2005) and (2009) offers a theory of empty names that purports to account for the content and truth-value of all utterances involving them. The goal is to do this while offering a homogenous semantic treatment: both empty and non-empty names make the same kind of contribution to truth-values. The account is based on a new theory of reference that purports to be an alternative among non-descriptivist accounts. According to the new theory, there is reference even without referents. In this paper I argue that the theory does not offer a homogeneous semantics for names and that, thus, it fails to offer a more satisfactory alternative to the theories already available. I conclude by briefly describing a way in which a theory could in fact offer such homogeneous semantics for names via a cognitive theory of empty names.

Keywords: homogeneous semantics, truth conditions, cognitivism.

1. Desiderata

Reimer (2001a) identifies two problems related to the ordinary use of empty names. On the one hand, speaker intuitions support the idea that statements using empty names are meaningful and truth-evaluable. Reimer dubs this “the intuition

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Reference Without Referents

Ilhan Inan



Reference Without Referents:

Reference Without Referents Richard Mark Sainsbury, 2005 Reference is a central topic in philosophy of language This book sets out a new approach to the concept which promises to bring to an end some long standing debates in semantic theory It also includes an historical survey It will be of interest to those working in logic mind and metaphysics *Reference and Identity in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Scriptures* D. E. Buckner, 2020-07-08 In Reference and Identity in Jewish Christian and Muslim Scriptures The Same God D E Buckner argues that all reference is story relative We cannot tell which historical individual a person is talking or writing about or addressing in prayer without familiarity with the narrative oral or written which introduces that individual to us so we cannot understand reference to God nor to his prophets nor to any other character mentioned in the Jewish Christian or Muslim scriptures without reference to those very scriptures In this context we must understand God as the person who walked in the garden in the cool of the day Gen 3 8 and who is continuously referred to in the books of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament as well as the Quran Further developing ideas presented by the late Fred Sommers in his seminal *The Logic of Natural Language* Buckner argues that singular reference and singular conception is empty outside such a context **A Referential Theory of Truth and Falsity** Ilhan Inan, 2022-05-03 This book proposes a novel theory of truth and falsity It argues that truth is a form of reference and falsity is a form of reference failure Most of the philosophical literature on truth concentrates on certain ontological and epistemic problems This book focuses instead on language By utilizing the Fregean idea that sentences are singular referring expressions the author develops novel connections between the philosophical study of truth and falsity and the huge literature in the philosophy of language on the notion of reference The first part of the book constructs the author's theory and argues for it in length Part II addresses the ways in which the theory relates to and is different from some of the basic theories of truth Part III takes up how to account for the truth of sentences with logical operators and quantifiers Finally Part IV discusses the applications and implications of the theory for longstanding problems in philosophy of language metaphysics and epistemology *A Referential Theory of Truth and Falsity* will appeal to researchers and advanced students working in philosophy of language epistemology metaphysics and linguistics *From Modernism to Postmodernism* Jennifer Ashton, 2006-01-05 In this overview of twentieth century American poetry Jennifer Ashton examines the relationship between modernist and postmodernist American poetics Ashton moves between the iconic figures of American modernism Stein Williams Pound and developments in contemporary American poetry to show how contemporary poetics specially the school known as language poetry have attempted to redefine the modernist legacy She explores the complex currents of poetic and intellectual interest that connect contemporary poets with their modernist forebears The works of poets such as Gertrude Stein and John Ashbery are explained and analysed in detail This major account of the key themes in twentieth century poetry and poetics develops important ways to read both modernist and postmodernist poetry through their similarities as well as their differences It will

be of interest to all working in American literature to modernists and to scholars of twentieth century poetry *Book of Addresses* Peggy Kamuf, 2005 This book consists of a series of essays that all turn around questions of the address of speech or writing They argue and demonstrate that meaning is not just a matter of the active intention of a subject for example speaker writer or other signatory of a meaningful act but also of its reception at another's address The book's main concern is therefore with a theory of meaning and of action that is not centered on the intentional self-conscious subject The fifteen chapters explore this problematic within three broad areas love jealousy and sexual difference fiction or literature and political or public discourse The book engages principally with contemporary French thought and includes important new readings of work by Jacques Derrida Hélène Cixous Maurice Blanchot and Jean-Luc Nancy

Philosophy of Language: The Key Thinkers Barry Lee, 2019-12-12 Playing a key role in our lives as a vehicle for our thoughts and a powerful medium of communication language is at the centre of philosophical investigation The fifteen specially commissioned essays in this book introduce and explore the ideas of major philosophers who have shaped philosophical thinking about language providing insights into crucial developments in this fascinating field over the last 140 years Chapters examine the work of Frege Russell Wittgenstein Carnap Austin Quine Chomsky Grice Davidson Dummett Kripke and Derrida This second edition broadens coverage of the area with new chapters on Susan Stebbing and on recent developments in feminist philosophy of language Featuring contributions from Arif Ahmed Kent Bach Thomas Baldwin Michael Beaney Siobhan Chapman Kirk Ludwig and other leading experts in the field *Philosophy of Language: The Key Thinkers* provides a thorough introduction to the puzzles debates and ideas that animate contemporary philosophy of language It is an ideal resource for undergraduate students in philosophy linguistics and related disciplines

Epistemic Meaning Kasper Boye, 2012-07-30 This book is intended to contribute to the clarification of the linguistic research area covered by the terms modal evidential and epistemic It sets out to demonstrate that on cross-linguistic grounds a hitherto overlooked epistemic meaning domain must be given due recognition in linguistic theory on a par with domains such as time and number The relevant domain is coherent but at the same time complex in that it consists of two subdomains one which comprises degree of certainty meanings and one which comprises information source meanings The book offers three arguments for giving recognition to such a meaning domain The first argument concerns the clustering of linguistic expressions with epistemic meaning into morphosyntactically delimited systems of elements The second argument has to do with the variation pertaining to the coding of epistemic meanings as highlighted in a semantic map of epistemic expressions The third argument turns upon the scope properties of epistemic meanings and the morphosyntactic reflections of these properties Finally the book proposes a unified cognitive analysis of epistemic meaning in terms of which it attempts to account for the properties of the epistemic meaning domain as well as of individual epistemic meanings

Legal science, philosophy Jacques Havet, 2019-06-04 No detailed description available for Legal science philosophy

Thought: Its Origin and Reach Alex Grzankowski, Anthony Savile, 2024-03-29

The work of Mark Sainsbury has made a significant and challenging contribution to several central areas of philosophy especially philosophy of language and logic He has made significant contributions to puzzles concerning the nature of thought and language and pioneered research in the philosophical theory known as fictionalism In this outstanding volume 20 contributors engage with Sainsbury's work but also go beyond it exploring fundamental problems in the philosophy of language mind and logic Topics covered include propositional thought intentionality the mind body problem singular thoughts the individuation of concepts nominalisation logical form non-existent objects and vagueness *Thought Its Origin and Reach* will be of interest to professional philosophers and students working in philosophy of mind language epistemology and metaphysics

Language and World Richard Gaskin, 2020-07-06 This book defends a version of linguistic idealism the thesis that the world is a product of language In the course of defending this radical thesis Gaskin addresses a wide range of topics in contemporary metaphysics philosophy of language philosophical logic and syntax theory Starting from the context and compositionality principles and the idea of a systematic theory of meaning in the Tarski Davidson tradition Gaskin argues that the sentence is the primary unit of linguistic meaning and that the main aspects of meaning sense and reference are themselves theoretical posits Ontology which is correlative with reference emerges as language driven This linguistic idealism is combined with a realism that accepts the objectivity of science and it is accordingly distinguished from empirical pragmatism Gaskin contends that there is a basic metaphysical level at which everything is expressible in language but the vindication of linguistic idealism is nuanced inasmuch as there is also a derived level asymmetrically dependant on the basic level at which reality can break free of language and reach into the realms of the unnameable and indescribable *Language and World* will be of interest to scholars and advanced students working in metaphysics philosophy of language and linguistics

The book delves into Reference Without Referents. Reference Without Referents is a crucial topic that needs to be grasped by everyone, from students and scholars to the general public. This book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into Reference Without Referents, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

1. The book is structured into several chapters, namely:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction to Reference Without Referents
 - Chapter 2: Essential Elements of Reference Without Referents
 - Chapter 3: Reference Without Referents in Everyday Life
 - Chapter 4: Reference Without Referents in Specific Contexts
 - Chapter 5: Conclusion
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 3. In chapter 2, this book will delve into the foundational concepts of Reference Without Referents. The second chapter will elucidate the essential principles that must be understood to grasp Reference Without Referents in its entirety.
 4. In chapter 3, this book will examine the practical applications of Reference Without Referents in daily life. This chapter will showcase real-world examples of how Reference Without Referents can be effectively utilized in everyday scenarios.
 5. In chapter 4, this book will scrutinize the relevance of Reference Without Referents in specific contexts. The fourth chapter will explore how Reference Without Referents is applied in specialized fields, such as education, business, and technology.
 6. In chapter 5, the author will draw a conclusion about Reference Without Referents. The final chapter will summarize the key points that have been discussed throughout the book.
- The book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. This book is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of Reference Without Referents.

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