

Specificity and referentiality

Barbara Abbott
Michigan State University
abbottb@msu.edu

- (1) I talked with a logician. [= Karttunen 1969, ex. 20a]
- (2) $x[\text{Logician}(x) \ \& \ \text{Talked-with}(I, x)]$
- (3) Who is the man drinking a martini? [from Donnellan 1966]
- (LN) On Russell's account, a referring expression 'b' may be combined with a (monadic) predicate expression to express a proposition which simply could not be entertained or expressed if the entity referred to by 'b' did not exist. Russell often puts this by saying that the referent of 'b' is a constituent of such a proposition; it will be convenient to follow him in this, but nothing in the present paper turns on this conception of a so-called singular proposition. (Ludlow & Neale 1991, 172; italics in original.)
- (4) I met a man. [from Russell 1919]
- (5) I met a man but I did not meet Jones.
- (6) I saw a perpetual motion machine.
- (7) Pegasus does not exist.
- (8) A. "Her husband is kind to her."
B. "No, he isn't. The man you're referring to isn't her husband." [Kripke 1977]
- (9) a. Serena Williams fought hard but the defending French open champion could not extinguish Henin-Hardenne.
b. Every Bulgarian astronomer was greeted by someone who knew the scientist as a youth.
- (10) a. I had lunch with a logician.
b. Have lunch with a logician!
- (11) A book is on the table.
- (K1) 'If a description is embedded in a (*de dicto*) intensional context, we cannot be said to be talking *about* the thing described, either *qua* its satisfaction of the description or *qua* anything else' (Kripke 1977, 158, italics in original).
- (K2) 'In "Smith's murderer, whoever he may be, is known to the police, but they're not saying,"... "Smith's murderer" is used attributively, but is *de re*' (Kripke 1977, 258f).

- (12) The oracle predicted that Oedipus would want to marry his mother.
- (12) a. the oracle predicted [Oedipus would want [[Oed.'s mother]_x Oed. marry x]]
 b. [Oed.'s mother]_x the oracle predicted [Oedipus would want [Oed. marry x]]
 c. the oracle predicted [[Oed.'s mother]_x Oedipus would want [Oed. marry x]]
- (K3) 'No *twofold* distinction can replace Russell's notion of scope. In particular, **neither the *de dicto-de re* distinction nor the referential-attributive distinction** can do so' (1977, 259; italics in original, bolding added, irrelevant footnote omitted).
- (13) X believes/hopes/desires that ...NP...
- (14) Oedipus will want to marry his mother.

REFERENCES

- Abbott, Barbara. 1994. Referentiality, specificity, strength, and individual concepts. In Erin Duncan, Donka Farkas, & Philip Spaelti, eds., Proceedings of the Twelfth West Coast conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 12). Stanford, CA: CSLI, 473-484.
- Dahl, Östen. 1988. The role of deduction rules in semantics. *Journal of Semantics* 6, 1-18.
- Donnellan, Keith S. 1966. Reference and definite descriptions. *Philosophical Review* 75, 281-304.
- Frege, Gottlob. 1892. Über Sinn und Bedeutung. *Zeitschrift für Philosophie und Philosophische Kritik*, 25-50. Trans. as 'On sense and reference', in Peter Geach & Max Black, eds., *Translations from the philosophical writings of Gottlob Frege*. Oxford: Blackwell, 56-78.
- Grice, H. Paul. 1978. Further notes on logic and conversation. In Peter Cole, ed., *Syntax and semantics*, vol. 9: Pragmatics. New York: Academic Press, 113-127.
- Kaplan, David. 1978. Dthat. In Peter Cole, ed., *Syntax and Semantics*, vol. 9: Pragmatics. New York: Academic Press, 221-243
- Karttunen, Lauri. 1969. Problems of reference in syntax. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University doctoral dissertation.
- Kripke, Saul. 1977. Speaker's reference and semantic reference. In Peter A. French, Theodore E. Uehling, Jr., and Howard K. Wettstein, eds., *Midwest Studies in Philosophy vol. II: Studies in the philosophy of language*. Morris, MN: University of Minnesota, 255-276.
- Linsky, Leonard. 1963. Reference and referents. In Charles E. Caton, ed., *Philosophy and ordinary language*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press,
- Ludlow, Peter & Stephen Neale. 1991. Indefinite descriptions: In defense of Russell. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 14, 171-202.
- Montague, Richard. 1973. The proper treatment of quantification in ordinary English. In Jaakko Hintikka, Julius Moravcsik & Patrick Suppes, eds., *Approaches to natural language: Proceedings of the 1970 Stanford Workshop on Grammar and Semantics*. Dordrecht: Reidel, 221-242. Reprinted in Richmond Thomason, ed., 1974, *Formal philosophy: Selected papers of Richard Montague*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 247-270.
- Neale, Stephen. 1990. *Descriptions*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Reimer, Marga. 1998a. Donnellan's distinction/Kripke's test. *Analysis* 58, 89-100.
- Reimer, Marga. 1998b. The Wettstein/Salmon debate: Critique and resolution. *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 79, 130-151.
- Russell, Bertrand. 1905. On denoting. *Mind* 14, 479-493.
- Russell, Bertrand. 1919. *Introduction to mathematical philosophy*. London: George Allen and Unwin.
- Wettstein, Howard. 1981. Demonstrative reference and definite descriptions. *Philosophical Studies* 40, 241-257. Reprinted in Ostertag, ed., 256-273.
- Wilson, George M. 1991. Reference and pronominal descriptions. *Journal of Philosophy* 88, 359-387.