

February 24, 2006

CLASS 9: REFERENCE

OVERVIEW

- “names (regardless of complexity) refer to things: people, animals, cities, stars...”
- *but how?* — this will be today’s discussion topic of semantico-philosophical nature

NAMES

We said that the meaning of names is to refer to particular individuals.

(1) *Confucius* ⇔ Confucius, *Shelby* ⇔ Shelby, *Miss Emma* ⇔ Miss Emma...

But what exactly creates the link between word and referent, and how is this done?

<http://evans-experientialism.freewebspace.com/plato_cratylyus.htm>

- *definite description*
- (2) a. *N is the X* doesn’t mean the same thing as *N is N* or *the X is the X*.
b. Suppose that *N* is not described by *X*, *N is the X* would intuitively be false, but it shouldn’t be if *N* means *the X*.

- *direct reference*

MORE REFERENCE

- *community in reference*

Evans vs. Kripke: *7th Avenue, Madagascar* (Kripke’s = subcase of Evans’ theory)

- *referential and attributive readings*

Frege vs. Russell: definites fundamentally *refer* vs. *describe* (“The teacher is nice”)

- *speaker’s reference vs. semantic reference*

Kripke vs. Donnellan: *definite NP = ambiguous?* (resolve on Frege vs. Russell!)