

Re: Name the thesis: "Formal sentences capture informal ones"

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From: Torkel Franzen (*torkel_at_sm.luth.se*)

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tchow@lsa.umich.edu writes:

- > *O.K., let me try another version.*
- >
- > *(* Intension-preserving formalization of informal mathematical*
- > *statements is always possible.*
- > *Maybe this should be thought of not as a thesis but as a "thesis schema"?*
- > *Instances of the schema would be things like:*
- >
- > *(+) Con("PA") is an intension-preserving formalization of "PA is*
- > *consistent."*

(+) is not on the face of it an instance of (*), since it states not only that an intension-preserving formalization of "PA is consistent" is possible, but that a particular arithmetical formula is such a formalization. What is required of an intension-preserving formalization? In formalizing Con(PA) or the fundamental theorem of arithmetic in PA, we need to represent finite sequences of numbers as numbers. This can be done in many ways, but are they intension-preserving?