

Re: The king of france is ...

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.logic/2008-04/msg01176.html>

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 - *Date:* Fri, 18 Apr 2008 21:07:15 -0700 (PDT)
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We note that the expression

$(x)(Fx \rightarrow Gx)$ (1)

is neutral with respect to the grammatical number. Even if the set $\{x: Fx\}$ has only one element, (1) still applies. So

$(x)(Bx \rightarrow Rx)$ (2)

expresses either "all the apples in my basket are red" or "the apple in my basket is red." One would certainly agree that if there are three apples in my basket and they are all red then the state of affairs is expressed as (2). If there are two apples in my basket and they are both red the state of affairs is also expressed as (2). If there is one apple in my basket and it is red then it is certainly the case that (2). The singular of

"All the apples in my basket are red" (3)

is

"The apple in my basket is red" (4)

Therefore (2) expresses both (3) and (4).

One could object however that since an English sentence must carry the information about the cardinality of the subject class, neither (3) nor (4) are equivalent to (2). In that case we would have to express (2) as

"The apple in my basket is red or all the apples in my basket are red."

(4) would be expressed as

$(x)[Bx \rightarrow (Rx \ \& \ (y)(By \rightarrow y=x))]$ (5)

and (3) would be expressed as

Re: The king of france is ...

$(x)[Bx \rightarrow (Rx \ \& \ \sim(y)(By \rightarrow y=x)]$ (6)

However it is not clear how (2) could possibly become

$(Ex)[Bx \ \& \ Rx \ \& \ (y)(By \rightarrow y=x)]$ (7)

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