

Re: The king of france is ...

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- *From:* Newberry <newberryxy@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 19 Apr 2008 07:17:23 -0700 (PDT)
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On Apr 19, 3:39 am, holden_o...@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Apr 19, 12:07 am, Newberry <newberr...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

We note that the expression

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

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

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

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

$$\text{"All the apples in my basket are red"} \quad (3)$$

Re: The king of france is ...

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

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

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

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

Not so. $(x)(Bx \rightarrow Rx)$, says all apples in my basket are red.

" $(x)(Bx \rightarrow Rx)$ " is not expressing plural. So it says what it says even

Re: The king of france is ...

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if there is only one apple in the basket.

The apple in my basket is red, means, $\exists y(Ax(x=y \leftrightarrow Bx) \& Ry)$.

If there are no apples in my basket then all apples in my basket are red, is false.

Not according to "classical" logic.

If there is one green apple in my basket then all apples in my basket are red, is false.
etc.

If all apples are red then you are correct.

If $\exists!(x: x \text{ is a red apple and } x \text{ is in my basket})$ then $(x)(Bx \rightarrow Rx)$, is true. – Hide quoted text –

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