

What "No" does

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GR "Multiple Conclusions" 2005.

If A logically entails B,
then it's a mistake to
assert A and deny B.

Imogen Dickie "Negation,
Anti-Realism & the Denial
Defence" 2010.

But Greg, you don't
acknowledge how messy
denial is!

She is right!

So my job in these five
minutes is to clarify
what I mean.

①

The Grice Example, with polar questions

Abelard: Is Astralabe in the kitchen?

Eloise: No, he is in the study.
✓

Abelard: Is Astralabe in the kitchen?

Eloise: No, he is either in the
kitchen or in the study.
XX

Eloise: Maybe—he is either in the
kitchen or in the study.
✓

PROPOSAL:

- To ASSERT p is to bid to add it to the common ground —
 - We can assert p by answering the polar question p? with YES.
 - To STRONGLY DENY p, we answer the polar question p? with NO, adding this to the CA.
 - To WEAKLY DENY p, we reject a bid to add p to the CA, or otherwise withdraw it.
- (We also have WEAK ASSERTION)

③

The Grice Example

Abelard: Astralabe is in the kitchen.

Eloise: No, he is in the study.

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Eloise: No, he is either in the kitchen or in the study.

► The first kind of denial is my target:
How can we distinguish it from the second?

②

Which Denial do I mean?

GR "Multiple Conclusions" 2005.

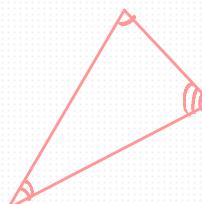
RECALLED

If A logically entails B,
then it's a mistake to
assert A and deny B.

STRONGLY STRONGLY

If A entails B is it ever
OK to strongly assert A
and weakly deny B?

I think so. Suppose F is
tutoring A in geometry, and
Euclid's axioms are in the CA.



Abelard: ... $30^\circ + 70^\circ + 80^\circ = 180^\circ$. So, the interior angles of triangles add up to 180° !

Eloise: No, the interior angles of this triangle add to 180° . Can you prove the general case?

④