

Philosophical Logic

Lecture 2: Rigid designation

1. A puzzle about identity Are true identity statements necessary or contingent? Necessary: everything must be identical to itself. Contingent: many true identities are *a posteriori*, synthetic truths.

2. Names We can resolve this puzzle about identity by considering referring expressions. What is a name? Simple reference vs descriptive reference.

3. Rigid Designation A referring expression *E* is rigid if and only if it refers only to the same item in all possible worlds (in which that item exists).

4. Necessary a posteriori truths Is a truth necessary if and only if it is analytic? Kripke thinks that this is a mistake. If Kripke is right, then some identity statements are necessary, synthetic, a posteriori truths.

5. Science and identity We also refer to stuffs studied by science using rigid designators. Can 'water is H₂O' really be necessary?

6. What explains the necessity of identity statements? Kripke shows that some identity statements are necessary in virtue of language, but other in virtue of the world. *De re* necessity (essentialism).

7. Synthetic, contingent, a priori? Can a truth be a priori even if it is contingent? Is this even intelligible?

8. Framework Which of these possibilities are intelligible?

1. Analytic - Necessary - A priori
2. Analytic - Necessary - A posteriori
3. Analytic - Contingent - A priori
4. Analytic - Contingent - A posteriori
5. Synthetic - Necessary - A priori
6. Synthetic - Necessary - A posteriori
7. Synthetic - Contingent - A priori
8. Synthetic - Contingent - A posteriori