

Thought and Language: P1

When you think, you think of something; when you use a name, it must be the name of something. Therefore both thought and language require objects outside themselves. (Bertrand Russell)

“x does not exist” is not true unless x does not exist. But if the subject of a statement does not exist, the statement is not meaningful. The problem with negative existentials is this: a necessary condition of their truth is a sufficient condition of their meaninglessness. (S. Marc Cohen)

An argument for P1

- P3. A proposition is true or false (C) only if (D) the proposition is meaningful... $C \supset D$
- P4. The proposition is meaningful (D) only if the names within it are meaningful... $D \supset E$
- P5: The names in a proposition are meaningful (E) only if the names in the proposition refer to things that possibly exist (F)... $E \supset F$
- C2. If the names in a proposition do not refer to things that possible exist ($\neg F$), the proposition is neither true or false ($\neg C$)... $\neg F \supset \neg C$
 - Note: i) $\neg F \supset \neg E$, ii) $\neg E \supset \neg D$, iii) $\neg D \supset \neg C$, thus, (iv) $\neg F \supset \neg C$