

Strawson, *On Referring*

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The Language Revolution

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True or False?

- RF1: Robin Williams is funny.
- RF2: Robin Williams was funny.



Presupposition

- Implication (Strawson) vs. Assertion (Russell)
 - Socrates is wise
 - Robin Williams *was* funny.
- Meaning vs. Referring
 - Robin Williams is funny
 - Robin Williams is not funny
 - Both false?
- Is Robin Williams funny?

Truth Value

- Russell: Sentences are either true or false
- Strawson: Utterances are true or false, or neither
 - Utterance: Particular use of a sentence



Use Theory of Meaning

- “Problems of use are wider than problems of analysis and meaning” (337).
- The snowfall in Clinton today is wet.
- The snowfall today is wet.
- The snowfall is wet.

Group Exercise

- “Expressions capable of having a referring use also differ from one another in at least the three following, not mutually independent, ways” (338).
- Break off into 6 groups—1 and 2 work on (1), 3 and 4 work on (2), and 5 and 6 work on (3)
- Develop 4 different examples of the kind of reference described in your part