IDENTITY, CERTAIN FUNCTION PRONOUNS AND DESCRIPTION

Summary

From the logical point of view, the most interesting among the pronouns are demonstrative pronouns (especially: this/that), indefinite pronouns (a/an), definite pronoun (the) and quantifying pronouns (every, all, some). Unlike personal pronouns (e.g. I/you/he) they are in fact functors (of the n/n category).

The differentiation between personal pronouns (n) and functor pronouns (n/n) is vital here. This differentiation does not exist in traditional grammar.

The study is limited to determining functor pronouns with the use of logical properties of quantifying expressions, which are functor pronouns themselves – all (a) and some (a) – formally expressed in the quantifier-less calculus of names (BRN). The calculus is properly enriched with demonstrative pronouns (demonstrativa), in connection to certain studies by Toshiharu Waragai (LID). An attempt to employ this system (BRND) in the analysis of some fragments of Ockham’s Summa Logicae is shown here. The work is concluded with the analysis of a functor pronoun the only (a), being a special case of a definite pronoun, which is characterised here by means of rules. The work reveals the connection between this pronoun and the operator of definite descriptions (marked in the same way) in relation to a certain Ludwik Borkowski’s conception.

Summarized by Eugeniusz Wojciechowski

Słowa kluczowe: identityczność, zaimki funktorowe, zaimki wskazujące, bezkwantyfikatorowy rachunek nazw, logika Ockhama, logika średniowieczna, deskrypcje określone.

Key words: identity, functor pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, quantifier-less calculus of names, Ockham’s logic, medieval logic, definite descriptions.

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