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Vallée, Richard (3-PQ)

Descriptions, référence et anaphore. (French) [Descriptions, reference and anaphora]

Dialogue 33 (1994), no. 4, 611–634 (1995).

The paper is divided into nine sections: (1) Introduction; (2) The argument of anaphora; (3) Russell; (4) Definite and indefinite descriptions; (5) Pronouns of laziness; (6) Pronouns of text; (7) Pronominal contradictions; (8) Broad and narrow scopes; and (9) Conclusion.

The aim of the paper is to revise the argument of anaphora against Russell's theory of descriptions, developed by Strawson in the fifties, which has usually been neglected. The author studies the real force of the argument and the attempts by Davies, Neale, and Ludlow to answer it. Finally the author's own theory, inspired mainly by Evans, is outlined.

A sound knowledge of the logico-linguistic intricacies of the role of pronouns in contexts of propositional attitudes is required in order to draw benefit from this valuable paper about one of the central strands in contemporary semantics.

Jaime Nubiola (Pamplona)