

**MR1363746 (97a:03009)** 03A05 03B65

**Hale, Bob** (4-STAN)

**Singular terms.**

With a reply by Dummett.

*The philosophy of Michael Dummett* (Mussomeli, 1991), 17–44, 268–272, *Synthese Lib.*, 239, Kluwer Acad. Publ., Dordrecht, 1994.

This paper deals with the criteria suggested by M. Dummett in his book *Frege: philosophy of language* [Harper & Row, New York, 1973 (Chapter 4)] to discriminate between singular terms and other expressions. Dummett's leading thought was "that there are certain simple patterns of inference that are characteristic of singular terms in the sense that, when relevant positions in their premises or conclusion are occupied by singular terms, the resulting inferences are valid, but when they are occupied by other expressions, one or another of the resulting inferences is invalid". The author studies with accurate detail the basic tests offered by Dummett, concluding that they are unsatisfactory.

In his reply, Dummett accepts candidly that the criteria he proposed were not adequate as they stood, and stresses the fact that "inferences involving first-order generality play a crucial role in distinguishing singular terms from other expressions".

A sound knowledge of Dummett's interpretation of Frege and a general understanding of contemporary philosophy of language are required to benefit from this paper.

{For the entire collection see MR1363745 (96f:03004)}

*Jaime Nubiola* (Pamplona)