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Singular term, subject and predicate.

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This paper is concerned with the attempts by recent philosophers of language to achieve a precise definition of the class of English expressions they call 'singular terms'. The Aristotelian and the Dummettian traditions of defining singular terms are presented, with a detailed account of relevant literature. The author sides mainly with the Aristotelian criterion, which "has the merit that it is already suggested by the grammar of our language", but improved by what is learnt from the discussion of Dummettian definition: "Singular terms, presumably, would be those expressions which can be combined with first-order predicables but which, unlike second-order predicables, do not have negations."

The paper has the six following sections: (1) The problem; (2) Two traditions; (3) The Dummettian criterion; (4) The Aristotelian criterion; (5) Hale's discussion of the Aristotelian criterion; and (6) Singular terms or second-order predicables. This paper, clearly written, deserves attention.

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