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**Universal instantiation: a study of the role of context in logic. (English. English summary)**

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This paper is an exploration of the ways in which one might react to some apparent failures of the rule of universal instantiation. In a suitable context an utterance of the sentence “Everything is made of wood” might be regarded as expressing a truth: for instance it might express a truth in a context where the speaker is showing a visitor a collection of figurines displayed on a table in front of them, but in that same context, an utterance of “Socrates is made of wood” would be considered as expressing a falsehood.

The author explores ways of responding to this problem, both conservative and revisionist. Finally, a radical conclusion is drawn: logical validity should be defined in terms of “assertibility in a context” rather than in terms of truth on an interpretation, as is usually done: “An argument is valid if and only if for every context in which the premises are assertible the conclusion is assertible as well”. The semantics developed by the author combines skillfully—in the reviewer’s opinion—elements from the semantical approaches of Kaplan, Karttunen, and Stalnaker. Contexts are defined not in terms of the attitudes of the interlocutors, but in terms of the goals of conversation, and assertibility is explained in terms of cooperation.

In the closing sentences of the paper, the author puts forward his view that the approach to logic exhibited in the paper can be extended to handle a variety of difficult problems in semantics and pragmatics of natural language. The general idea would be to define contexts as structures of sentences of relatively simple languages and then to explain the semantics of more complex languages in terms of assertibility of sentences relative to those contexts. Future developments in forthcoming papers are to be expected.

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