

Meaning Variance Reconsidered

Tyko Schuff
MCMP, Munich

This talk aims to reframe and explicate the Quinean notion of meaning variance in logic. We begin from the idea that different logics preserve different properties from premises to conclusion in their valid arguments. This variance in what is preserved then implies a corresponding variance in the meanings of the logical constants and of the relation of logical consequence itself. But rather than simply arguing that there must be some meaning variance between logics, our approach allows us to identify the root cause of the phenomenon and to document the change in meaning in greater detail: Why is there a change of meaning from one logic to another? What exactly is changing? And what does it change from and to? In this regard, we hope our account offers an improvement over Quine's original argument.