What Are Singular Terms, and Why Are There Any?

What are solvers (particulars) and why are there any? 21 First we should ask: What are sentences, and why are there any? 32 Sentences are expressions whose free-standing use has the default significance of performing one of the fundamental speech acts, paradigmatically asserting. 41 Then we should ask: What are subsentential expressions, is discerned, it is not possible to project proprieties governing the use of novel sentences. 61 One of Frege's lessons is that to discern significant occurrences of subsentential expressions is to treat sentences as substitutional variants of one another. 71 There are three sorts of syntactic substitution-structural roles (SSRs): a) Expressions that are substituted for, and c) Expressions that are substituted for, and c) Expressions that are substituted for and c) Expressions that are substitutional variants schematically: "c admired Rousseau." b) "Kant' is substituted for. c) The substitutional frame or remainder is what is common to substitutional variantsschematically: "c admired Rousseau." 91 Singular terms play the SSR of substitutional frames or remainders. 121 Substitution inferences are those in which the conclusion is a substitutional variant of one of the premises. 121 The semantic significance of the occurr	1]	According to a broadly Kantian approach, the title question is one way to ask the question:						
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		significance of their occurrence is always symmetric.						
b) Predicates are substitutional <i>frames</i> . and the substitution-inferential		b) Predicates are substitutional <i>frames</i> . and the substitution-inferential						
significance of their occurrence <i>can</i> be <i>asymmetric</i> .		significance of their occurrence <i>can</i> be <i>asymmetric</i> .						
17] This is the substitutional answer to the question: What are singular terms (and predicates)?	171	This is the substitutional answer to the question: What are singular terms (and predicates)?						
To ask why there are any is to ask:	· .	To ask why there are any is to ask:						
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181	This way	of putting	the question	provides a	map of the	alternatives:
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- *i*) Substituted *for* is *symmetric* and substitutional *frame* is *symmetric*.
- *ii*) Substituted *for* is *asymmetric* and substitutional *frame* is *symmetric*.
- *iii*) Substituted for is asymmetric and substitutional frame is asymmetric.
- *iv*) Substituted *for* is *symmetric* and substitutional *frame* is *asymmetric*.
- 19] The one actually instantiated by singular terms and predicates respectively is (*iv*). The question then is: what's wrong with the others?
- 20] At the level of sentences, many of the substitution inferences that are to be codified and projected by discerning significant occurrences of subsentential expressions are themselves asymmetric (irreversible). No such weakening inferences could be generated if all subsentential components are restricted to symmetric significance, so (*i*) is ruled out.
- 21] The remaining options, (*ii*) and (*iii*) are like each other, and unlike (*iv*) in assigning *a*symmetric *SIS* to expression-kinds that play the syntactic *SSR* of being substituted *for*. What is wrong with this combination?
- 22] Consider the generalizations that permit the material substitutional contents associated with subsentential expressions to determine the proprieties of substitution inference that govern novel combinations of those expressions. Taking it that
 - a) Benjamin Franklin is (=) the first Postmaster General of the United States commits one to the propriety of all inferences of the form
 - b) $P(Benjamin Franklin) \models P(the first Postmaster General of the United States), where the term 'a' has primary semantic occurrence in 'Pa'.$ *Identity claims*make explicit these symmetric substitution licenses.
- 23] Similarly, for predicates, taking it that

b)

a)

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- a) Anything that walks moves,
 - commits one to the propriety of all inferences of the form
 - $Walks(a) \models Moves(a).$

When these content-constitutive, potentially asymmetric substitutional commitments regarding predicates are made explicit, they take the form of *quantified conditionals*.

- 24] The pattern corresponding to the hypothetical *asymmetric* significance of substituted *fors* would replace identity claims with inequalities:
 - t > t'

means that

b) $P(t) \models P(t')$, but perhaps not $P(t') \models P(t)$, for every frame P.

- A predicate Q is an *inferential inverse* of a predicate P if for all *t*,*t*':
 - a) $P(t) \models P(t')$ and not $P(t') \models P(t)$ entails
 - b) $Q(t') \models Q(t)$ and not $Q(t) \models Q(t')$.
- 26] So to answer the question in [21], it suffices to show: If every sentential substitutional frame has an inverse, then the pattern of [24] cannot obtain, i.e. in that case there can be no *asymmetrically* significant substituted *fors*.
- 27] In any language containing the expressive resources of elementary sentential logic, every predicate has an inferential inverse.
- For conditional and negating locutions are inferentially inverting--inferentially weakening the antecedent of a conditional inferentially strengthens the conditional.
 Thus if condition [25a] holds, condition [25b] can be shown to hold:

--Just let $Q\alpha$ be defined as $P\alpha$ ->r [or one could equally let $Q\alpha$ be defined as $\sim P(\alpha)$].

--Then if [25a] holds, then

 $\mathbf{P}(t') \rightarrow \mathbf{S}(t') \models \mathbf{P}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{S}(t) \text{ and } \operatorname{not} \mathbf{P}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{S}(t) \models \mathbf{P}(t') \rightarrow \mathbf{S}(t').$

- 29] The conditional and negation locutions are inferentially inverting precisely because they play the indispensible expressive role of making inferential relations explicit as the contents of sentences.
- 30] So any semantically autonomous language with those basic sentential logical expressive resources will display singular terms and predicates if it displays any subsentential structure at all.