

## Philosophy Paper 108: The Philosophy of Logic and Language

### 3. Frege on Sense and Reference

Explain Frege's notions of Sense (Sinn), Reference (Bedeutung) and Thought (Gedanke). Why does Frege introduce the distinction between Sense and Reference, and what different roles is Sense supposed to perform? Is it a coherent notion?

#### READING

Gottlob Frege, "On Sense and Reference", translated by Max Black, *Philosophical Review* 57 (1948), pp. 207-30 and reprinted in Peter Geach and Max Black (eds.), *Translations from the Philosophical writings of Gottlob Frege* (Blackwell, second edition 1960), also in Peter Ludlow (ed.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Language* (MIT Press, 1997).

Gottlob Frege, "The Thought: A Logical Inquiry", translated by A. M. and Marcelle Quinton, in P. F. Strawson (ed.), *Philosophical Logic* (OUP, 1967), also in Peter Ludlow (ed.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Language* (MIT Press, 1997).

Kenneth Taylor, *Truth and Meaning* (Blackwell, 1998), Chapter 1.

Alexander Miller, *Philosophy of Language* (UCL, 1998), Chapters 1 and 2.

Michael Dummett, *Frege: Philosophy of Language* (Duckworth, second edition 1981), Chapter 5 (and 6 if you're really keen!).

Peter Millican, Section V of "Content, Thoughts, and Definite Descriptions", *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society Supplementary Volume* 64 (1990), pp. 167-203, but best read in the misprint-free version on the Web at <http://philosophy.hertford.ox.ac.uk/papers/1990Content.doc> (and see the references in the footnotes if you want more).

Michael Dummett, *The Interpretation of Frege's Philosophy* (Duckworth, 1981), chapter 6.

Gareth Evans, *The Varieties of Reference* (OUP, 1982), Chapter 1.

Tyler Burge, "Sinning against Frege", *Philosophical Review* 1979, pp. 398-432.

David Bell, "How 'Russellian' was Frege?", *Mind* 1990, pp. 267-77.