M. PRZELĘCKI

THE SEMANTICS OF OPEN TERMS

(Summary)

The subject studied in the present paper are terms introduced into the language with the help of conditional definitions. In the first part of the paper several types of sentences, involving these terms, are distinguished. The most important among them is the class of "undetermined" sentences, i.e. sentences whose truth-value varies according to the interpretation — compatible with the definition — of the term conditionally defined. The author shows that this class is equivalent to the class of sentences from which the conditionally defined term is not eliminable on the basis of such a definition.

The second part of the paper is concerned with the problem of the truth-value of "undetermined" sentences. With the help of the "relative" concept of truth in a model, the author reformulates several definitions of the "absolute" concept of truth for languages containing "undetermined" sentences, proposed by various authors, and discusses the consequences of these definitions. The problem of the objective reference of conditionally defined terms is also studied. An analysis is given of the principal types of definitions of the concepts of designation and of denotation as applied to conditionally defined terms.