

The Non-Uniformity of 'Good'

Abstract: According to some philosophers, sentences with the word 'good' have a uniform form. On this view, many of the apparent syntactic and semantic differences between 'Bob is a good dog' and 'It's good to regularly drink water' are illusory. For instance, Finlay (2014) claims that the meanings of 'good' sentences always involve a relation between three propositions. A difficulty in evaluating uniformity theses is that they typically aren't formulated in a linguistically precise way. I provide an interpretation of uniformity theses as holding that 'good' is uniform with respect to the arguments that it takes at some level of syntax or semantic representation. I then defend the view that the motivation for uniformity theses is weak, and I develop a strategy for opposing them.