

A PERFECT LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT:

In recent Logic, languages without indexicals have been widely studied, since they have been thought to be more 'perfect' than our normal language. This paper shows the error in this line of thought as well as providing a plausible account of why it has been so attractive to its adherents. The possibility of a language without indexicals has been important, as well, to recent theorists about Truth, such as Tarski; and its attraction is shown to be a large part of the motivation for later developments in this view of Truth, made by Priest. By considering languages containing indexicals instead, it is shown that it is the removal of them that has created many of the major problems that have arisen within this recent semantic tradition. Furthermore, one consequence of Gödel's First Incompleteness Theorem is that indexicality is inescapable in languages of sufficient complexity.

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