

Quotation and Mental Files

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In this talk, I will first summarize my account of (open) quotation in terms of context-shift. According to that account, open quotation operates on character— it turns the character of an expression into a metalinguistic character, without necessarily affecting its content. Then I will present a view of the relations between linguistic meaning, referential content, and thought, where the thought ingredient corresponding to a singular term is a mental file, the linguistic meaning of the term constrains the associated file, and the reference of the term is inherited from that of the file (the primary bearer of referential content). Within that framework, I will sketch an analysis of certain quotational phenomena directly at the level of thought.