

Preface

PREFACE

In contemporary philosophy right from the time of Frege and Russell one of the main concerns of the philosophers was to show how the proper name means something. Though the matter appears to be simple and non-problematic, a philosophical investigation reveals that it is not the case. In order to unravel all the niceties of this issue philosophers have propounded one after another theory. As it is not possible to discuss the entire gamut of this complicated issue within the limit of a thesis I have endeavored in the present venture to delimit my discussion. I have started from the theory of J.S. Mill and ended my discussion with the theory of comparatively recent solution given by American philosopher Saul Kripke. However, in philosophy no solution can be regarded as final and philosophers till dates are giving considerable attention to give a more satisfactory theory.

There was a time when J.S. Mill's view of proper name was to be regarded as a naive view of proper name. However, the new theory of reference has shown that it is not so naive as it appears to be. Frege did not have a very sophisticated idea of proper name. Even he does not distinguish between proper name and other expressions such as the definite descriptions. Still his distinction between sense and reference is regarded as a milestone in philosophy. Taking clue from Frege's theory Russell propounds more sophisticated theory of proper name. This is not to say that Russell borrowed his idea from Frege. In fact he was a vigorous critic of Frege's sense-reference distinction. However, his (Russell's) distinction between ordinary proper name and

logically proper name is a very crucial one. In the present work I have given elaborate explanation of the views of these three philosophers.

In the second half of the last century there was a new development. In the 1960's and 1970s Marcues and Kripke propounded a theory which has come to be known as the new theory of reference. There were some innovative ideas in their theories and that is why they received sufficient attention from the philosophers. Particularly their theory of rigid designators and causal historical theory are indeed of a new kind. I have devoted considerable space to discuss their views. Although these theories were initially given to solve he problem of reference later on it was found that they have considerable metaphysical implication. I refrained from discussing these metaphysical implications as they do not come within the ambit of the present work.

I would like to acknowledge the help and support to all who helped me in a range of ways while I was engaged in writing this thesis paper. Here I desire to pay my sincere gratitude to my supervisor **Dr. Jyotish Ch. Basak** for his valuable and illuminating guidance throughout my research work. Without his kind co-operation it could not be possible for me to complete this thesis.

Particular thanks to University of North Bengal for providing me with the University scholarship. I am grateful to the learned teachers of the Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal for their sympathy and encouragement in my humble endeavor to complete the present work. A note of thanks to the Library stuff of North Bengal University, National Library, Kolkata and ICPR library, Lucknow for providing me with books & materials in photocopy for my present work.

I express my deep gratitude to my Grand mother, parents and parent's in-law without whose blessings and encouragement I could have never completed this work. The constant emotional support from the part of my elder brother Biplab, brother Jayanta and all family members was a source of inspiration.

A special mention must go to Subhas, my husband for his caring assistance and inspiration during the various stages of writing and editing. I am also thankful to my ten month old son, Sannidhya who has bear inconvenience from me during this period.

Dipa Bhattacharya
20.04.05.
Dipa Bhattacharya