

First we must define the terms 'noun' and 'verb,'
then the terms 'denial' and 'affirmation,'
then 'proposition' and 'sentence.'

Spoken words are
the symbols of mental experience and
written words are the symbols of spoken words.

Just as all men have not the same writing,
so all men have not the same speech sounds;
but the things which these symbolize,
the mental experiences, are the same for all,
as are the things of which
our experiences are images [...]

As there are in the mind thoughts
which do not involve truth or falsity,
and also those which must be
either true or false,

so it is in speech;
for truth and falsity depend
on combination and separation.

Nouns and verbs themselves, are like
thoughts without combination or separation;
like 'man' and 'white',
when nothing is added;
they are not yet either true or false.

In proof of this, consider the following;
even the word 'goat-stag' has significance,
but there is no truth or falsity about it,
unless 'is' or 'is not' is added,
either simply or in some other tense.

A noun is a sound significant
by convention, with no indication of time,
and of which no part is significant apart from the rest.

In the noun 'Fairsteed,' [proper name] the part 'steed'
has no significance in and by itself,
as in the phrase 'fair steed.'

Yet there is a difference between simple
and composite nouns;

for in the former the part
is in no way significant, in the latter it
seems to contribute to the meaning of the whole,
although it has not an independent meaning,
as in the word 'epaktrokélis' [pirate-boat] the 'kélis'
I say 'by convention,'

for nothing is by nature a noun or name
— it is only so when it becomes a symbol;
because inarticulate sounds are also significant,
such as those which beasts produce,
yet none of these constitutes a noun [...]

A verb is that which additionally denotes time.
No part of it has any independent meaning,
and it is a sign of something said of something else.

I say that it also carries time, because
'Health' for instance is a noun, but 'is healthy' is a verb;
it additionally indicates existence in the present.