

# The PSYCHOLOGICAL RECORD . . . .

DECEMBER, 1943

Vol. V

No. 11

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THE PRINCIPIA PRESS, INC.

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

*Price of this number, 75 cents.*

## AN INTERBEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSITIONS

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Two diametrically opposite attitudes may be taken toward the current vigorous discussion of propositions and their relation to such linguistic things as sentences and statements. On the one hand, we may conclude that the intensive study of the linguistic and logical aspects of propositions indicates an increased understanding of the latter and a fair promise of logical progress in addition. On the other, we may be so deeply impressed by the contrasting treatments of propositions as to decide that no study in the logical domain could be less rewarding.

Basic to the disagreements so lavishly displayed in the descriptions of propositions are undoubtedly the wide differences in philosophical background which yield diverse conceptions of the nature of logic. Thus logicians who cling to classical philosophies are involved with the ontological contents of propositions or with mind and its rational processes such as inference and judgment. The more recent logicians imbued with the tenets of logical positivism or empiricism and who wish to avoid classical metaphysics propose to do so by stressing language factors.<sup>1</sup> In the case of both the classical and symbolic logicians there is noticeably lacking a satisfactory psychological position from which the nature and function of language can be adequately surveyed.

Our purpose then in the present paper is to offer three suggestions that may prove serviceable in clarifying propositional problems. First, we indicate a general interbehavioral approach to scientific and logical work. This approach is offered to replace the traditional epistemological and ontological pronouncements. Secondly, we point out how the objective psychology implied by the interbehavioral approach may help in distinguishing and analyzing logical and linguistic events. And, finally, we specify how an interbehavioral analysis and interrelation of psychology, language and logic clarify the nature and function of propositions.

### THE INTERBEHAVIORAL APPROACH

The basic assumption of the interbehavioral approach is that all scientific and logical work consists of interbehavior of individuals with (1) things and events, and (2) the products of such interbehavior.

<sup>1</sup> We are not suggesting here that the logical positivists substitute language for things in the scientific as differentiated from the logical domain.