

Names, Senses, Conceptions, and Objects  
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Abstract

In his *Logische Untersuchungen* Edmund Husserl criticizes John Stuart Mill's account of meaning (or signification) as connotation, especially Mill's failure to separate the distinction between connotative and non-connotative names from the distinction between the meaningful and the meaningless. According to Husserl, both connotative and non-connotative names have meaning or "signification", that is, what Gottlob Frege calls the sense ("Sinn") of an expression. The distinction between connotative and non-connotative names is a distinction between two kinds of meaning (or sense), attributive and non-attributive meaning ("attributive und nicht-attributive Bedeutung"). Attributive (connotative) names denote (refer to) objects through their attributes, whereas a non-attributive name means a thing directly ("direkt"). In this paper I examine the notion of direct meaning (or sense) by means of the semiotic theory of Charles S. Peirce, and compare Peirce's account with the views of Frege, Alexius Meinong, and David Kaplan and Gareth Evans.