



CATEGORICAL PROPOSITION AND CLASSES.

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ABSTRACT

A Proposition is the expression of a judgement. It is a description or an assertion of some fact which is either true or false. A Proposition may be true or false which is determined by the fact.

General propositions are two types—universal and particular. When the general proposition says something about the entire group indicated in the subject it is known as universal proposition.

General propositions on the other hand, are of two types — universal and particular. When the general proposition says something about the entire group indicated in the subject it is known as universal proposition.

Again, universal propositions are of two types — affirmative and negative. "All men are mortal", is an example of affirmative universal proposition. Because, here the subject term 'men' wholly included in the predicate term 'mortal' which denotes the class of mortal beings.

"No men are birds", is a negative universal proposition, because here the subject term 'men' which denotes the men class is wholly excluded from the predicate term 'birds' which denotes the class of all birds. When the general proposition says something about a part of the group indicated in the subject, it is known as particular proposition. Similar to universal propositions particular propositions are of two types — affirmative and negative. "Some men are blind", is a particular affirmative proposition. Because here a part of the class 'man' has been included in the class 'blind'.

Again, "Some men are not intelligent" is an example of particular negative proposition. Here a part of the class 'men' is wholly excluded from the class 'blind'.

KEYWORDS :**INTRODUCTION:-**

A proposition is the expression of a judgement. It is a description or an assertion of some fact which is either true or false. It is also a logical unit. A proposition may be true or false which is determined by the facts.

A proposition is the statement of a certain relation between two terms. It thus consists of three parts, viz., two terms, and the sign of relation between them. Of the two terms, one is called the subject, the other is called the predicate and the sign of relation is known as the copula. The subject of a proposition is the term about which something is stated (i.e., affirmed or denied); the predicate is the term which is stated (i.e., affirmed or denied) about the subject; and the copula is sign of affirmation or denial.

Propositions are divided into categorical and conditional, according to relation. A categorical proposition is one in which the relation between the subject and predicate is without any condition, in which the predicate is either affirmed or denied of the subject unconditionally. For example, All men are mortal, No man is perfect, Some students are intelligent, Some men are not wise etc. In all these cases, the relation between the subject and the predicate is not subject to any condition.

There are four different standard forms of categorical proposition. They are illustrated by four following propositions.

Universal Affirmative Proposition :

This kind of statement asserts that the subject class is wholly contained in the predicate, or, that every member of the subject class is also a member of the predicate class. Because it refers 'every member', its quantity is universal. Since it asserts a relationship, its quality is affirmative. All politician are liars' is an example. It asserts that every members of one class, the class of politician, is a member of another class, the class of liars.

Any universal affirmative proposition can be written schematically as
All S is P

Universal Negative Proposition:-

This kind of statement asserts that there is no relation between the two classes. i.e., no member of one class is a member of the other class. Since it denies, its quality is negative and. Since it refers to every member of a class its quantity is universal.

No politicians are liars' is propositions in which it is denied, universally, that any member of the class of politicians is a member of the class of liars it asserts that the subject class, 'S' is wholly excluded from the predicate class, 'P'.

Schematically categorical proposition of this kind can be written
No S is P

Particular Affirmative:

This type of statement affirms that only some, not all, members of one class is also member of another class. Since it affirms that its quality is affirmative, but since it refers to some member. Its quantity is particular. For example, "Some politician are liars' this proposition affirms that some members of the class of all politicians are members of the class of all liars. But it does not affirm this of politicians universally. Only some particular politician or politicians are said to be liars.

This proposition does not affirm or deny anything about the class of all politicians; it makes no pronouncements about that entire class. Nor does it say that some politicians are not liars, although in some contexts it may be taken to suggest that. The literal and exact interpretation of this proposition is the assertion that the class of politicians and the class of liars have some member or members in common. That is what we understand this standard form proposition to mean.

'Some' is an indefinite term. Does it mean 'at least one' or 'at least two' or 'at least several'? Or how many? Context might affect our understanding of the terms as it is used in everyday speech, but logicians for the sake of definiteness, interpret 'some' to mean **at least one**.

A particular affirmative proposition may be written schematically as
Some S is P

Particular Negative:-

A statement of this kind asserts that some members of a class are not member of another class. Its denial makes its quality negative, and its reference to 'some' member makes its quantity particular. For example 'some politician are not liar' like the third, does not refer to politicians universally, but only to some member or member of that class; it is particular. But unlike the third example. It does not affirm the inclusion of some member of members of the first class in the second class; this is precisely what denied.

It is schematically written as
Some S is not P

It was traditionally held that all deductive arguments were analysable in terms of classes, categories and their relation. Thus the four standard form categorical propositions just explained;

- A- Universal affirmative Proposition
- E- Universal Negative Proposition
- I- Particular affirmative Proposition
- O- Particular negative Proposition.

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