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## Discourse Reference and Fictional Names

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This paper argues that fictional names, like “Anna Karenina” or “Sancho Panza,” are variables associated with presuppositions that constrain the relevant assignment of values. Particularly, fictional names presuppose that their assigned value is the unique occupant of the role that constitutes the relevant character.

A role is a set of properties determined by a fictional story (Wolterstorff 1980, Currie 1990, Stokke 2021, Glavaničová 2021). Roughly, Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina determined the set of properties {is called “Anna Karenina,” is Russian, is a countess, is married to Karenin, is the sister of Oblonsky, ...}. This set of properties is a role that an individual can occupy at a particular world. Someone who uniquely has all the Anna Karenina properties at a world  $w$  is the unique Anna Karenina occupant at  $w$ .

I suggest that a role be understood as the information associated with a particular discourse referent by the relevant text. I show that this theory provides a unified semantics and pragmatics for a range of uses of fictional names. For instance, (1) can be uttered fictionally, to tell a fictional story.

(1) Anna Karenina was a countess.

Second, (1) can be uttered assertorically by someone who confusedly puts forward as an assertion about how things actually are. Third, (1) can be used to say something about what happens in Anna Karenina. On the account I propose, “Anna Karenina” has the same semantic meaning on all of these. In particular, the account integrates the way names function within fiction to build up discourse information, and thereby roles, with their semantics on uses outside fiction, such as metafiction, and assertions. The paper also examines some other uses of fictional names.

**References:** • Currie, G. (1990). *The nature of fiction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. • Glavaničová, D. (2021). Rethinking role realism. *British Journal of Aesthetics* 61(1), 59–74. • Stokke, A. (2021). Fictional names and individual concepts. *Synthese* 198(8), 7829–7859. • Wolterstorff, N. (1980). *Works and worlds of art*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.