

'Vague' (pub. 14.08.17-13:05). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-vague-logic>.

Term: Vague

Quote: **Vague** (in logic) [Lat. *vagus*, rambling, indefinite]: Ger. *unbestimmt* ; Fr. *vague* ; Ital. *vago*. Indeterminate in intention.

A proposition is vague when there are states of things concerning which it is intrinsically uncertain whether, had they been contemplated by the speaker, he would have regarded them as excluded or allowed by the proposition. By intrinsically uncertain we mean not uncertain in consequence of any ignorance of the interpreter, but because the speaker's habits of language were indeterminate; so that one day he would regard the proposition as excluding, another as admitting, those states of things. Yet this must be understood to have reference to what might be *deduced* from a perfect knowledge of his state of mind; for it is precisely because these questions never did, or did not frequently, present themselves that his habit remained indeterminate.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1902). Vague (in logic). In J. M. Baldwin (Ed.), *Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology, Vol. II* (pp. 748). London: Macmillan and Co.

References: DPP 2:748

Date of 1902

Quote:

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