

**FIRST OUTLINES OF  
LOGIC,  
APPLIED TO GRAMMAR  
AND ETYMOLOGY**

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First Outlines of Logic, Applied to Grammar and Etymology by R. G. Latham

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**R. G. LATHAM**

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AND ETYMOLOGY**



# FIRST OUTLINES OF LOGIC,

APPLIED TO

## Grammar and Etymology.

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## PREFACE.

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THE present Treatise is limited to the exhibition of those points of Grammar which the construction of a single preposition is capable of explaining. These are the general nature of the Parts of Speech, and two sorts of Inflections. A wider latitude would have interfered with the intended brevity of the work. It presupposes on the part of the reader an average knowledge of the current terms and rules of the usual Grammars.

29, UPPER SOUTHWICK STREET,  
*May 1847.*

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## OUTLINES OF LOGIC.

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§ 1. *GENERAL view of Propositions.*—The first step in Grammatical Logic is to understand the nature of *Propositions*.

To do this, let us suppose two men talking together.

It is certain that they talk about something,—*e. g.* the *weather*.

It is also certain that they say something about something; *e. g.* they say of the weather *that it is hot*, or *that it is not hot*.

One may assert that it is *hot*. In this case the subject spoken of is *the weather*, concerning which there is a fact affirmed, *viz.* that it is *hot*.

The other may assert that it is *not hot*; in which case the subject spoken of is *the weather*, concerning which a fact is *denied*, *viz.* the fact of its being *hot*.

Now, the words by which we make either the statement that *the weather is hot*, or the statement that *the weather is not hot*, form what is called by logicians and grammarians a Proposition.

§ 2. *The Proportion that Propositions bear to language in general.*—If we consider the great extent to which statements concerning particular objects, or classes of objects, form the staple of human conversation, if we remember how much of our speech is applied to making

different assertions concerning different subjects, and if we convince ourselves of the degrees in which we are continually either affirming or denying something of something, we shall perceive the great proportion which that part of our language which takes the form of a proposition bears to that which does not do so.

§ 3. *Parts of Speech, and the Tests by which they are determined.*—No one can look into a grammar without finding an enumeration of what are called the *Parts of Speech*, e. g. the Noun, the Verb, the Substantive, the Adjective, the Participle, the Conjunction, the Interjection, &c.

Now, the parts of speech are determined by the structure of propositions; and a word is a noun, a conjunction, or a verb, according to either the place it takes in a proposition, or the relation it bears to one.

*Obs.*—The Grammatical form of a word is an insufficient test. No substantive, in the etymological signification of the term, ends in *-ειν* in Greek; whilst infinitive verbs, generally speaking, do so end. Nevertheless, the infinitive forms *τὸ φθονεῖν, ἐν τῷ φθονεῖν*, are not verbs, but substantives. For the purposes of *Syntax*, at least, the logical test as opposed to the etymological test is indispensable.

Neither is the Phonetic form (i. e. the sound) of a word a test. The same combination of sounds may have a variety of meanings, and may sometimes constitute one part of speech, sometimes another. The word *up* is an adverb in the sentence *I go up in a balloon*; a preposition in the sentence *I go up a tree*.

The laws by which one meaning grows out of another belong to the highest branches of Philology, and are

questions in what has been called the Natural History of Language.

§ 4. *Parts of Speech that enter into the structure of Propositions.*—From the propositions already quoted (*the weather is hot* and *the weather is not hot*) it is evident that the word *weather* belongs to one of those parts of speech that enter into the structure of propositions. If it were not so, it would not appear as it does.

The same applies to the word *is*.

The same to the word *hot*.

The same to the word *not*.

Each and all of these words, however much they may differ in other respects, agree in the fact of their being admissible into the structure of propositions.

§ 5. *Parts of Speech that do not enter into the structure of Propositions.*—Take the words *ah!* *oh!* *pooh!* or any of the words usually called interjections. They will not combine with other words so as to form sense. They will neither make a proposition by themselves, nor help to make one in conjunction with other words. The person who uses them, uses them as he would use a gesture, to express surprise, pain, or contempt; but although he uses them thus he makes no *affirmation*. He no more affirms that *he is surprised*, or that *he is in pain*, or that *he is scornful*, than if he started back, or laid his hand upon a tender part of his body, or curled his lip contemptuously; and in like manner the hearer understands his meaning. But he would have understood a gesture as well. Nothing is affirmed or denied by the words. Neither do they enter into propositions wherein anything is affirmed or denied. They are wholly independent of propositions; as much so