

PREFACE

The notion of Entailment is the corner-stone of deductive logic. The term 'entailment' was coined by G.E. Moore in order to denote the relation, which is the converse of the relation of deducibility. The relation of entailment is one of the necessary conditions for the validity of a deductive inference. Some logicians go so far as to consider it to be the sufficient condition for validity as well, thereby making the concept of entailment very important for logic.

There are differences among logicians regarding the nature of entailment. Different logicians define the notion differently.

The aim of this thesis is to make a survey and critical examination of the different theories of entailment.

My thesis is that, out of all the accounts the classical account seems to be the most acceptable one. It is the fundamental account; none of the other accounts is possible without the classical account. The classical account is tolerably satisfactory. An attempt

has also been made to offer a new definition of entailment to overcome the shortcomings of the classical account.

A survey of the different theories of entailment is not found within the framework of an exegetical-cum-critical study. In this respect the present work serves to do something to fill in the gap in the existing literature on a subject of immense philosophical importance.

The general line of inquiry followed in this work may be briefly described in the following way.

This dissertation consists of five chapters. The introductory chapter deals with the notion of validity, for the idea of entailment is central to it.

In the second chapter Russell's view of entailment as material implication is explained and examined.

The next chapter deals with the question whether entailment can be equated with formal implication.

Chapter four contains an exposition and assessment of Lewis' definition of entailment as strict implication. Strawson's definition of entailment is also critically considered in this context.

In chapter five the views of Relevance Logicians, like Anderson and Benlap, and a few others who think that relevance is a necessary condition for a proper understanding of the nature of entailment, have been discussed at length. A critical examination of these theories is also undertaken. In this connection, the view of Neil Tennant, a contemporary

logician, who offers Intuitionistic relevant logic by overcoming some of the defects of Anderson and Belnap's theory of entailment, is considered.

A concluding note on the work as a whole is hereinafter added.

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