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Analogy and the Square of Opposition

ABSTRACT. In this paper I propose a way to express analogy by means of the traditional square of opposition. Medieval thinkers expressed contingency as a conjunction of subcontraries (possible to be and possible not to be), which suggests a new corner in the lower part of the square. Its contradictory gives us the sixth corner to form a hexagon. We begin with the traditional modal square and its expansion into a hexagon following a proposal of Jean-Yves Béziau, who presents a hexagon for similarity, difference, opposition and identity. Then I propose a hexagon for terms proper to analogy and finally I show a hexagon that quantifies over similarity.

KEY WORDS: traditional square, hexagon, analogy, quantification

Analogy is the kingdom of the word as a verbal bridge that, without suppressing differences and oppositions, reconciles them.¹

Octavio Paz, *Los hijos del limo*

1. Introduction

Analogy is everywhere, so to speak; it is difficult to exaggerate its significance. I do not remember who said that it is the mark of the wise man to find resemblances where nobody else sees them. Actually, there are many resemblances in the world. Analogy is basic in several kinds of discourse, such as in philosophy and the anthropology of religion. When Thales of Miletus said that the world is full of gods he spoke analogically. In translating, there is always at least one difference, either syntactic or

¹ *La analogía es el reino de la palabra como, ese puente verbal que, sin suprimirlas, reconcilia las diferencias y las oposiciones* [Paz, 1985, p. 102].