

Mill: the three “grand divisions of names”

General vs. Individual (singular)

General: capable of being truly affirmed, in the same sense, of each of an indefinite number of things.

man, stone, soldier

Individual: only capable of being truly affirmed, in the same sense, of one thing.

John, William the Conqueror, the king who succeeded William the Conqueror

Concrete vs. Abstract

Concrete: “stands for a thing.”

John, the sea, this table, man, white, old

Abstract: “stands for an attribute of a thing.”

Singular: stands for a single attribute “neither variable in degree nor in kind.”

milk-whiteness, visibleness, equality, squareness

General: stands for a generic attribute.

color, whiteness, magnitude, old age

Connotative vs. Non-connotative

Connotative: “denotes a subject and implies [Mill later says ‘connotes’] an attribute.”

White denotes each white thing, and connotes the attribute of whiteness.

Man denotes each man, and connotes the attribute of humanity.

“All concrete general names are connotative.”

Non-connotative: “signifies a subject only, or an attribute only.”

Concrete: *John, London, England*

Abstract: *Whiteness, length, virtue*

Individual concrete names

Proper names: non-connotative.

“A proper name is but an unmeaning mark which we connect in our minds with the idea of the object, in order that whenever the mark meets our eyes or occurs to our thoughts, we may think of that individual object.”

Paul, Caesar, Dartmouth

Definite descriptions (“individual concrete names that connote an attribute as well as denoting an individual”).

*God, the sun, the first emperor of Rome, the author of the Iliad, the present
Prime Minister of England*

Combinations and Permutations

How do these three grand divisions intersect? There are eight possible combinations, but one of those is empty.

General Concrete Connotative	<i>white, man, virtuous</i>
General Concrete Non-connotative	none ¹
General Abstract Connotative	<i>fault (= bad quality)</i>
General Abstract Non-connotative	<i>color, whiteness</i>
Singular Concrete Connotative	<i>the first emperor of Rome, the author of the Iliad</i>
Singular Concrete Non-connotative	<i>Paul, Caesar, Dartmouth</i>
Singular Abstract Connotative	Mill doesn't say. ²
Singular Abstract Non-connotative	<i>visibleness, equality, squareness, humanity</i>

1. Mill explicitly rules these out (“All concrete general names are connotative”).
2. Mill never discusses this permutation. Are there any “singular abstract connotative” terms? If so, give some examples; if not, prove that there can't be any.