

Works and Realizations

The general topic of the paper is the ontology of artifacts. In the beginning, I argue for an ontology of artifacts which is based on the distinction between works (types) and their realizations (tokens). The basic idea of the proposed theory is that works determine classes of realizations. After having outlined the essentials of such a type-ontology of artifacts, I concentrate on a particular problem raised by works of literature: Which objects are realizations of literary works? I argue that works of literature may be realized in concrete (loud) readings, but not in copies of books etc. However, an analysis of literary works as something that determines classes of readings is clearly inadequate, for there might be distinct literary works which may be realized in exactly the same readings. A more adequate account includes "world-types" as strata of literary works. But this is still not sufficient, because there might be distinct works of literature with both identical "form-strata" and identical "world-strata". I propose as a solution a third "stratum" which may be realized in concrete mental occurrences.