**Ontology and Natural Language**

Friederike Moltmann

Natural language appears to involve its own ontology, an ontology that may be different
from what particular philosophers are willing to accept and what even what 'ordinary'
people accept when reflecting upon 'what there is'. In many cases, however, a deeper
level of linguistic analysis uncovers a somewhat different ontological picture associated
with natural language than what philosophers generally attribute to it. In this paper I
will discuss a range of such cases (involving tropes, modals, and propositional
attitudes) as well as the relevant sorts of linguistic methods and greater range of
linguistis data that may bear on the issue. The paper will also address the general
question of how the ontology associated with natural language is to be understood and to
what extent it should be identified with our 'cognitive' ontology in general.