VARIATIONS ON THE LIAR'S PARADOX

Line 1: The statement on line one is false.
Line 2: All statements on line two are false. p and not-p
Line 3: All statements on line 3 are true, or all of them are false. p and not-p
Line 4: The statement on line 4 is false, or (p and not-p).
Line 5: The statement on line 5 is true if and only if (p and not p).
Line 6: All statements on line 6 are false. p.
Line 7: All statements on line 7 are false. Not-p.
Line 8: The statement on line 9 is true.
Line 9: The statement on line 8 is false.
Line 10: The statement on line 11 is true if and only if the statement on line 12 is true.
Line 11: The statement on line 10 is true and p.
Line 12: The statement on line 10 is true and not-p
Line 13: The statement on line 13 is true and p, if and only if, the statement on line 13 is true and not-p

Line thirteen is perhaps somewhat more reminiscent of Russell's paradox than Tarski's 'the statement on line 1 is true if and only if the statement on line 1 is false' which he has deduced from the statement on line 1 (Logic, Semantics, Metamathematics, p. 158).

Moreover, line thirteen contains no explicit mention of falsehood, an advantage achieved by Tarski (ibid., p. 162) in a somewhat less simple fashion. Obviously, all these formulations are both demonstrable and refutable, and Tarski's method disposes of them all. The methods of the language analysts may dispose of line 1 (by viewing self-reference as meaningless) and perhaps of lines 8 and 9 (Lewis' visiting card), though by somewhat more elaborate techniques (such as Ryle's). But at least prima facie the ordinary language analysts' techniques fail to dispose of line 13, especially since these techniques are largely based on common-sense which stumbles when applied to complicated propositions that one rarely used in ordinary circumstances. (Being only partly self-referring, and rather complicated, line 13 scarcely lends itself to the analyses so far offered by members of this school. Hence, it may be viewed as a tentative argument in favor of Tarski's solution of the paradox and against the ordinary language analysts' solutions.

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The University of Hong Kong