

Self-Referential Sentences 2

SENTENCES WHICH REFER TO THEMSELVES

- *Let us make a new convention: that anything enclosed in triple quotes, for example, "No, I have decided to change my mind; when the triple quotes close, just skip directly to the period and ignore everything up to it", is not even to be read (much less paid attention to or obeyed.*
- *A ceux qui ne comprennent pas l'anglais, la phrase citée ci-dessous ne dit rien: "For those who know no French, the French sentence this quoted sentence has no meaning."*
- *i should begin with a capital letter.*
- *Well how about that -- this sentence is about me!*
- *I am simultaneously writing and being written.*

- *Cut me out, twist me, and glue me to form a Mobius strip, please.*
- *I am the meaning of this sentence.*
- *I am the thought you are now thinking.*
- *I am thinking about myself right now.*
- *I am the set of neural firings taking place in your brain as you read the set of letters in this sentence and think about me.*
- *This inert sentence is my body, but my soul is alive, dancing in the sparks of your brain.*
- *Do you think anybody has ever had precisely this thought before?*
- *You are under my control because I am choosing exactly what words you are made out of, and in what order.*
- *No, you are under my control because you will read until you reach the end of me.*
- *Hey, down there -- are you the sentence*

I am writing, or the sentence I am reading?

- *And you up there -- are you the person writing me, or the person reading me?*
- *You and I, alas, can have only one-way communication, for you are a person and I, a mere sentence.*
- *As long as you are not reading me, the fourth word of this sentence has no referent.*
- *The reader of this sentence exists only while reading me.*
- *Hey, out there -- is that you reading me, or is it someone else?*
- *Say, haven't you written me somewhere else before?*
- *Say, haven't I written you somewhere else before?*
- *This sentence is not self-referential because "thit" is not a word.*

Hofstadter, Douglas. *Metamagical Themas: Questing for the Essence of Mind and Pattern*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1985.

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Ouroboros, symbol of self-reference [digital background image]. <megan0426.wordpress.com>

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