Elements in the Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein
edited by
David G. Stern
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WITTGENSTEIN ON LOGIC
AND PHILOSOPHICAL
METHOD

Oskari Kuusela
University of East Anglia
Wittgenstein on Logic and Philosophical Method

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DOI: 10.1017/978110898981125
First published online: May 2022

Oskari Kuusela
University of East Anglia

Author for correspondence: Oskari Kuusela, o.kuusela@uea.ac.uk

Abstract: This Element outlines Wittgenstein’s early and later philosophies of logic, and explains Wittgenstein’s views regarding the methodological significance of logic for philosophy. Wittgenstein’s early philosophy of logic is presented as a further development of Frege’s and Russell’s accounts of logic, and Wittgenstein’s later philosophy as a response to problems with his early views, including confusions about idealization and abstraction in logic. The later Wittgenstein’s novel logical methods, such as the method of language-games, are outlined, and the new kind of logical naturalism developed in his later philosophy described. I conclude by discussing the later Wittgenstein on names.

Keywords: Wittgenstein, logic, philosophy of language, philosophical method, models

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ISBNs: 9781108986649 (PB), 9781108981125 (OC)
ISSNs: 2632-7112 (online), 2632-7104 (print)
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