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► JOHN CORCORAN AND SRIRAM NAMBIAR, *Conversely: extrapropositional and prosentential*.

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This self-contained lecture examines uses and misuses of the adverb *conversely* with special attention to logic and logic-related fields. Sometimes adding *conversely* after a conjunction such as *and* signals redundantly that a converse of what preceded will follow.

(1) Tarski read Church and, conversely, Church read Tarski.

In such cases, *conversely* serves as an *extrapropositional* constituent of the sentence in which it occurs: deleting *conversely* doesn't change the proposition expressed. Nevertheless it does introduce new implicatures: a speaker would implicate belief that the second sentence expresses a converse of what the first expresses.

Perhaps because such usage is familiar, the word *conversely* can be used as “sentential pronoun”—or *prosentence*—representing a sentence expressing a converse of what the preceding sentence expresses.

(2) Tarski read Church and conversely.

This would be understood as expressing the proposition expressed by (1).

*Prosentential* usage introduces ambiguity when the initial proposition has more than one converse. Confusion can occur if the initial proposition has non-equivalent converses.

Every proposition that is the negation of a false proposition is true and conversely.

One sense implies that every proposition that is the negation of a true proposition is false, which is true of course. But another sense, probably more likely, implies that every proposition that is true is the negation of a false proposition, which is false: the proposition that one precedes two is not a negation and thus is not the negation of a false proposition.

The above also applies to synonyms of *conversely* such as *vice versa*. Although *prosentence* has no synonym, extrapropositional constituents are sometimes called *redundant rhetoric*, *filler*, or *expletive*.

Authors discussed include Aristotle, Boole, De Morgan, Peirce, Frege, Russell, Tarski, and Church.