

# 8. Numerations

## 8.1. The existential quantifier

### 8.1.0. Overview

A generalization quantifies only by claiming the absence of counterexamples. We will now turn claims that are more explicitly quantificational; the first are claims of the existence of examples, each of which asserts that there is at least one object of a certain sort.

#### 8.1.1. Exemplification

Most of the ideas used in analyzing English generalizations apply also to claims of exemplification; but, instead of three forms, we have only one.

#### 8.1.2. Obversion

As was noted in [7.3.1](#), every claim of existence amounts to the denial of a generalization.

#### 8.1.3. Conversion

The quantifier phrase and quantified predicate of an existential claim are interchangeable, a feature that is associated with the use of the phrase *there is*.

#### 8.1.4. Existentials exemplified

Most analyses of existential claims are straightforward, but there is often a great variety of ways of expressing the same content in English.

#### 8.1.5. Existential commitment

The impact of the way undefined terms are being handled is clearest when we consider the content of existential claims.