Term: Rhema

Quote: An assertion fulfilling the condition having been obtained, let a number of the proper designations of individual subjects be omitted, so that the assertion becomes a mere blank form for an assertion which can be reconverted into an assertion by filling all the blanks with proper names. I term such a blank form a rheme. If the number of blanks it contains is zero, it may nevertheless be regarded as a rheme, and under this aspect, I term it a medad. A medad is, therefore, merely an assertion regarded in a certain way, namely as subject to the inquiry, How many blanks has it? If the number of blanks is one, I term the rheme a monad. If the number of blanks exceeds one, I term it a Relative Rheme. If the number of blanks is two, I term the rheme a Dyad, or Dyadic Relative. If the number of blanks exceeds two, I term it a Polyad, or Plural Relative, etc.


References: CP 4.354

Date of Quote: 1903 [c.]

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