

## Natural Logic, Medieval Logic and Formal Semantics

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Recent investigations in “natural logic”, the logic actually encoded in natural language usage, as opposed to the formal semantic and deductive systems presented by contemporary professional logicians (see, e.g. Sanchez, V., *Studies on Natural Logic and Categorical Grammar*, Doctoral dissertation, University of Amsterdam, 1991; “LF and Natural Logic”, in Preyer, G. and G. Peter, G. (eds.), 2002, *Logical Form and Language*. Oxford: OUP), have sparked some interest in medieval logic, as providing both a description of a “natural logic” and a “regimentation” of an actual natural language, namely, the technical Latin of scholastic philosophy. This paper, through an analysis of John Buridan’s (ca. 1300-1362) nominalist approach to logical semantics, will argue that in our contemporary enterprise we may in fact be able to utilize a great deal from these medieval ideas, provided we keep these ideas in proper perspective, keeping always in mind what they were meant to be used for, and what they were not (without implying, though, that we cannot use them for something else, with the relevant provisos in place).