

The subject of the presented work are potencies or powers, which are called – in contemporary terminology – also dispositions. Ascription of a disposition to some effect can be substituted by a dispositional conditional sentence of the following type: “If x is (were) suitably tested, x manifests (should manifest) .” As the non-modal way to deal with dispositions does not seem feasible, we employ the modality of necessity to formalize the (subjunctive) dispositional conditional. But the needed necessity cannot be explained merely by means of formal logic. Therefore we accede to the ontological considerations concerning powers.

Since we use categorical properties (qualities) to explain behaviour of things, dispositions non-identical with their categorical basis would be superfluous. Hence powers (dispositions) are only conceptually distinct from their qualitative basis. We know categorical properties, but we know them only thanks to their causal potentialities or powers. So power belongs to the essence of corresponding quality, it belongs to it as its relation to some (possible) effect. If the powers belong to the essence of qualities, a qualified thing, qua qualified, necessarily has the corresponding power. As the power ascription can be substituted with a conditional sentence, we may formulate the following proposition: Necessarily (in all possible worlds): a qualified thing is tested in relation to some power corresponding to its quality it manifests this power.