Here are two books, written 26 years apart. The older one deals with a very specific area of logic, the newer one with a common thread that runs through a variety of logical fields. Yet they are recognizably by the same author and display the features, both mathematical and stylistic, that typify Smullyan’s writings.

The focus of *Diagonalization and Self-Reference* is the development of a unified framework for the fixed-point theorems that occur in different areas of mathematical logic, such as recursion theory, combinatory logic, and proof theory. To this end Smullyan introduces the notion of a sequential system. To quote his definition, "By a sequential system S we shall mean a triple \((N, \Sigma, \rightarrow)\), where \(N\) is a set, \(\Sigma\) is a collection of functions of various numbers of arguments, all arguments and values being in \(N\), and \(\rightarrow\) is a transitive binary relation on the set of all finite non-empty sequences of elements of \(N\)."

Of course, this definition is highly general, which provides for the flexibility to deal with disparate applications. For example, consider the statement: