

“Accepting knowledge claims always involves an element of trust.” Discuss this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.

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Human, as a species with individual thinking ability, often accepts knowledge claims. Especially for students, accepting knowledge claims from textbooks or teachers has become a daily mental activity that must be done. However, it is worth investigating whether the knowers are truly impressed and convinced by the knowledge claim or is there an element of trust during the acceptance of the knowledge claim. In the given prescribed title, the phrase “element of trust” refers to the tendency in which recipients of the knowledge claims decide to accept the knowledge claims and blindly believe in the the reliability of the knowledge claims, in another word, faith. Accepting knowledge claims can be described as the learning or public acceptance of some statements in different AOKs such as Natural sciences. The word “always” represents the frequency of the involvement of trust during accepting knowledge claims. With all the properly defined terms, my knowledge question will be: “To what extent does the acceptance of knowledge claims from Natural sciences and Religious Knowledge systems involve the element of trust? When people acquire knowledge in the Natural Sciences, the trust that we have in the knowledge will depend on the “common sense” or shared knowledge claims people believe in, on the reputation of a person who is offering the knowledge, and on our biased perception of the world. On the other hand, when a new knowledge claim of Natural sciences is introduced to others, people tend to show the flexibility of acceptance and overcome the opinionated perception that have on the shared knowledge claims when sufficient evidence supports the new knowledge claim. Similarly, when people acquire knowledge in Religious Knowledge Systems, the trust that people place on the knowledge will depend on the lack of control over the reality from people and

the hope for a more acceptable reality concerning the personal will of the individual. On the other hand, when people acquire certain religious knowledge claims, trust doesn't take place. Since some religious knowledge claims contain the most obvious and fundamental doctrines and rules that everyone knows and follows. These statements will be discussed further in this essay.

In the field of Natural Sciences, the acceptance of the knowledge claim involves the elements of trust to different extents. In the first instance, the acceptance of knowledge claim in Natural Sciences involves the elements of trust to a very limited extent. The WOK is reason. The ways of drawing a conclusion from certain scientific phenomenon or stating claims are based on the method of reasoning. The name "Natural sciences" speaks for itself; it is the study of nature. The study process is often taken place with a caring attitude and scrutinized procedures. The observation is often repeated multiple times to neutralize the errors. The results concluded from the experiment can be nothing but accurate and convincing. When the accurate results are gathered from the observation, reasoning applies itself to the results. Then, the conclusion is yielded with supports from evidence and human logic. It is unnecessary to let the knowers "believe" in certain knowledge, which exists factually and realistically in the world. On the contrary, the knowers will accept For example, after the initial publication of the general theory of relativity by Albert Einstein in 1915, the English astronomer Arthur Eddington realized that the theory could be verified by comparing star positions in images of the Sun taken during a solar eclipse with images

of the same region of space taken when the Sun was in a different portion of the sky (*Cloes, 2019*). Before the actual verification of general relativity, there was no acceptance of this theory in the world of science. After Arthur Eddington verified the theory during the year 1919 with this observation, the science world accepted this theory immediately without hesitation, where trust was not involved in the acceptance of this knowledge claim. When there is logical proof of the existence and the reliability of the new knowledge claim or an explanation of a particular phenomenon, it seems that trust has no impact on the way we accept knowledge. In this case, we can see that trust does not 'always' have to be present for knowledge to be accepted.

On the other hand, reason doesn't always prevail in Natural Sciences. The element of trust engages with the acceptance of knowledge constantly and is more important than pure reasons and empirical evidence. When people face a new knowledge claim, their attitude will always be skeptical. They tend to choose to believe in the knowledge claim that is either well-established shared knowledge such as the universal law of gravitation or personal knowledge. Instead, they will not believe in the new knowledge claim. Therefore, for people to accept a new knowledge claim, the element of trust is always necessary and important. For example, in quantum mechanics, Schrödinger, one of the prominent contributors, said that he did not believe in quantum mechanics, because its appearance subverted everyone's cognition, and society at that time also generally don't trust in quantum mechanics (*Schrödinger, 2021*). However, quantum mechanics has now been proven to be able to predict some phenomena well, so based

on factual considerations, humans still choose to accept this knowledge. This process takes decades to make people believe and even the scientists themselves. This real-life example shows the situation in which reasoning of a theory with factual evidence in Natural sciences does not necessarily lead to a state of public recognition from the knowers. On the other hand, the knowers tend to believe and blindly trust certain knowledge claims and refuse to accept other knowledge claims. In this case, we can see that trust does have to be present for knowledge to be accepted.

In the field of Religious Knowledge Systems, the acceptance of the knowledge claim involves the elements of trust in different instances. In the first instance, the acceptance of religious knowledge is deeply rooted and connected with the element of trust. When people acquire knowledge claims from the RKS, they tend to acquire the religious stories and information through reading and simultaneously agreeing with the information. Hence, people tend to place faith in religious knowledge and trust the reliability of those information or knowledge claims. The WOK here is faith. This means that people tend to believe and trust the knowledge claims religious systems have provided. Religious people tend to believe in a transcending superpower that is beyond the recognition of the human mind. The carrier of this superpower can raise the dead, walking on water, and feeding people in the whole city with a loaf of bread. There is no possible explanation or reason to discuss the authenticity of the phenomena. People, surprisingly, not only accept the information but also apply the doctrines from those “mystical” stories in real life. Therefore, accepting knowledge claims from areas of

knowledge such as RKS is not only involving the element of trust but depending on it. If the acceptance of such knowledge claims doesn't have the element of trust and faith within it, this whole system of knowledge will collapse. For example, People who have experienced the mortality of family members or friends may question for the existence of the power of God as described in the RKS. When their requests are not answered, the credibility of the religious knowledge claims in their minds will weaken. Hence, the element of trust during the acceptance of religious knowledge claim is important.

In the second instance, the factors of faith and trust don't involve the acceptance of religious knowledge. Religious knowledge was created by early people because of their lack of control over their lives and the surrounding natural habitats. The existence of religious knowledge set up regulations of human behaving and provide mental comforting effects for people. By taking a closer look at the religious knowledge, it is easy to find that the information provided in this knowledge system is the most obvious and fundamental boundaries and rules people should know by heart. A person can accept this information without actually "believing" or placing trust in it. For example, there is no involvement of trust during accepting this knowledge. Meanwhile, the Holy Bible mentions that killing is forbidden. People accept this information from the Bible not because they "trust" this content, but because the idea of "killing is wrong" is already rooted in the human mindset. A person never needs a reminder from others that killing is wrong. Hence, from this example, people accepting religious knowledge not because they learn and "believe" in the content, but rather, they had the knowledge

previously. Before a knowledge claim is accepted with the involvement of trust, the knowers of this knowledge claim appear as unaware and non-believing attitudes towards this knowledge claim. On the other hand, however, when knowers already have the underlying spiritual understanding of the knowledge claims before the physical and mental acceptance of the knowledge claims, the process of an actual acceptance with the element of trust will not proceed. Hence, the element of trust sometimes takes no place in the acceptance of the knowledge claims in RKS.

In conclusion, the acceptance of knowledge claims with the element of trust in the fields of Natural Sciences and Religious Knowledge Systems has different levels of extents. When people acquire knowledge in the Natural Sciences, the trust that we have in the knowledge will depend on the existed share knowledge claims people believe in. On the other hand, when a new knowledge claim is introduced to Natural Sciences, the knowledge claims are accepted by people because of their compact factual evidence. When people acquire knowledge in RKS, the trust that people place on the knowledge will depend on the lack of control over the reality from people and the hope for a more acceptable reality concerning the personal will of the individual. On the other hand, when people acquire certain religious knowledge claims, trust doesn't take place. Since some religious knowledge claims contain the most obvious and fundamental doctrines and rules that everyone knows and follows in real life.

Works Cited:

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