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-ELIN NORDEGREN

EXERCISE BOOK

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1. Theories of Truth.

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2. John Locke - Roles of sensation and reflection

3. David Hume - ideas and perceptions

4. Saul Kripke - Naming, an necessity and truth.

5. Epistemology.

# SACF Kripke's NAMING AND NECESSITY.

Introduction

Background

Kripke's Critique of Descriptivism.

Kripke's Causal Theory of Reference.

Necessary and Contingency.

Criticisms

Evaluation

## INTRODUCTION.

## BACKGROUND

Saul Aaron Kripke was born on November 13, 1940 and died on 15th September, 2022. He was an American analytic philosopher and logician known for his groundbreaking contributions to modal logic, philosophy of language and metaphysics. He was considered one of the most important philosophers. Kripke at 17 years old wrote a paper on modal logic that became very highly influential. His book Naming and Necessity was published in 1980, in which he revolutionized theories of reference. He argued that names refer to objects not by descriptum but through a causal-historical chain as such introduced the causal theory of reference.

## KRIPKE'S CRITIQUE OF DESCRIPTIVISM.

Kripke systematically dismantled the descriptivist theory in naming and necessity. He argued that the proper names are rigid designators since they refer to the same entity in all possible worlds.

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Before Kripke's intervention and criticism, the dominant theory of naming was descriptivism,

associated to Gottlob Frege and Bertrand Russell. According to descriptivism theory, a proper name is essentially shorthand for a cluster of descriptions that uniquely identify an object; for instance the name "Aristotle" might be associated with descriptions such as "the student of Plato" or "the teacher of Alexander the great". This approach implies that the meaning of a name is equivalent to the description associated with it, and if the description changes then the name might fail to refer properly.

Kripke therefore argued against this position. He argued that suppose a person is taught that Mungo Park discovered River Niger, but in reality, it was native Africans, then when and Mungo Park merely took credit. For him, if names were descriptions, then when one says that Mungo Park discovered the River Niger, they would actually be referring to native Africans which seems absurd.

Also, if names were equivalent to descriptions, then a name's referent could change if the description were different in another possible world. Hence, for Kripke proper names designate the same individual in every

possible world, regardless of the properties they possess, in those worlds.

He went further to say that names are not semantically equivalent to descriptions; for instance; if we can meaningfully ask whether Aristotle was actually a philosopher, whereas it would be incoherent to ask whether the greatest philosopher of antiquity was a philosopher.

### KRIPKE'S CASUAL THEORY OF REFERENCE.

Kripke proposed an alternative to descriptivism, which he called "causal-historical theory of reference".

According to this theory, a name is linked to its referent through an initial act of "baptism", in which a name is assigned to an object. The name is then passed down through a causal chain of communication. For eg. someone is introduced as James Bill and she is referred to as James; later this name is communicated to others who also use it the same way.

Also, unlike the descriptive theory, this causal

theory explains how names maintain reference even if associated descriptions turn out to be incorrect. For instance, if we later discovered that Einstein was not the person who developed the theory of relativity, we would still be referring to the same individual when using his name.

### NECESSITY AND CONTINGENCY.

Kripke also fundamentally changed and reshaped our understanding of necessity and contingency. He challenged the traditional assumption about the relationship between necessity, contingency and how we refer to objects and truths. He also challenged views on the relationship between necessity and *a priori* knowledge.

The traditional notions of necessity posited that necessary truths are true in all possible worlds and are typically associated with *a priori* knowledge. Contingent truths on the other hand are true in the actual world but could have been false in another possible world, it is associated with *a posteriori* knowledge.

Kripke accepted these basic definitions but argued that the connection between necessity and

a priori knowledge was not as straightforward as was assumed. For him there exists necessary a posteriori and contingent a priori truths, as such altered the philosophical landscape.

Kripke noted that some necessary truths are discovered through empirical means, making them a posteriori and still necessarily true. He identified that "water = H<sub>2</sub>O" as an instance, since the identity of water as H<sub>2</sub>O is a scientific discovery (known a posteriori) but once established is necessarily true. Other examples was that Hesperus is phosphorus.

Among contingent truths, he noted that there are statements that might be contingent truths, yet knowable a priori. For instance, if Thomas Edison <sup>Thomas Edison</sup> is the person who first discovered the light bulb, (even when we commonly use Nikola Tesla). If it turns out that Edison did not actually discover the light bulb, then the statement "Thomas Edison discovered the light bulb" would be contingent - it would have been false, yet we know it a priori based on our stipulation.

CRITICISM.

EVALUATION & CONCLUSION.

## JOHN LOCKE → ROLES OF SENSATION AND REFLECTION.

- Introduction
- Background
- Empiricism of John Locke
- Sensation and Reflection
- The Role of Sensation
- The Role of Reflection
- Criticisms
- Evaluation | Conclusion

### 1. INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND OF JOHN LOCKE.

John Locke (1632-1704) was an English philosopher widely regarded as one of the influential thinkers of the Enlightenment. His contributions philosophy are obvious in Metaphysics, Epistemology and socio-political philosophy.

He is often credited as the founder of Modern empiricism. A school of thought which emphasizes experience as the foundation of all knowledge. His work "An Essay concerning Human Understanding" (1690) laid the groundwork for later empiricist philosophers like George Berkeley and David Hume.

He was influenced by scientific revolution and the works of Francis Bacon. He argued that knowledge originates from sensory experience and not innate as argued by rationalist.

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## EMPIRICISM OF JOHN LOCKE.

John Locke's epistemology was fundamentally empiricist, which means that he believed that knowledge is acquired through experience rather than innate principles.

He directly opposed rationalist thinkers like René Descartes who argued that ideas such as mathematical truths and the concept of God are inborn. Locke however, asserted that the human mind at birth is a tabula rasa (blank slate) upon which experience writes all knowledge on.

Hence he made a radical departure from rationalism and laid the groundwork for modern empirical sciences emphasizing observation and experience.

### SENSATION AND REFLECTION:

Locke argued that all knowledge originates from experience, which he categorized into two fundamental types:-

- Sensation ;
- Reflection.

Sensation is the primary way humans acquire knowledge. It refers to the direct experience of the external world through the senses. These sensory perceptions provide the mind with simple ideas such as color, sound, heat and texture, forming the basic building blocks of knowledge.

Reflection on the other hand is the mind's awareness of its own operations. The mind processes and reflects upon the sensory information it receives, leading to the formation of more complex ideas such as reasoning, willing and believing. Through reflection individuals acquire their own cognitive activities like doubting and reasoning.

For John Locke, through these two sources, individuals accumulate knowledge over time developing more intricate concepts by associating and combining their experiences.

However, he distinguished between simple ideas and complex ideas. Simple ideas are the most basic elements of thought and arise directly from sensation or reflection; Examples includes the sensation of warmth from the sun. Simple ideas are received without the mind's active manipulation.

Complex ideas are formed by the mind's ability to manipulate and combine simple ideas through processes such as comparison, combination and abstraction. For example, the concept of beauty arises from the sensory perceptions, while the idea of justice

is formed through abstract reasoning.

### THE ROLE OF SENSATION

Sensation plays an essential role in locke's empiricism, and theory of knowledge, since it provides direct experiences of the external world.

For Locke, without the sensory input, the mind would remain empty, devoid of ideas or understanding.

Locke emphasized that all ideas initially arise from sensation, which involves a direct experience of external objects through the five senses. It is then the sensory experiences that introduce the mind to the world, providing it with fundamental impressions that serve as the basis for all knowledge.

To further his explanation, Lock classified distinguished qualities; primary qualities and secondary qualities.

The primary qualities are the inherent properties of objects such as shape, motion and solidity; they can exist independent of the observer.

The secondary qualities on the other hand are subjective and dependent on the observers perception such as color, taste and sound. They do not exist in

the objects themselves but are produced by the interaction between external objects and human senses.

For Locke, this distinction accounts for the variations in human perception, while maintaining that objective reality exists independently of sensory experience.

### THE ROLE OF REFLECTION

Reflection is equally important and plays a major role in Locke's epistemology. The reflection allows individuals to be aware of their own mental processes.

Unlike sensation, which provides direct information about the external world; reflection enables introspection and self-awareness. Through reflection individuals understand concepts such as self-awareness, memory, decision making and personal identity.

Self-awareness is essential for higher-order thinking and acquisition of knowledge. It allows individuals to analyze, interpret and organize the sensory data received.

However, Locke notes that reflection is essential in his theory of personal identity. For him,

personal identity is based on the continuity of consciousness rather than the persistence of a particular substance or soul. Since reflection enable individuals to be aware of their past experiences, it forms the basis of personal identity over time.

### CRITICISM

EVALUATION/CONCLUSION.

## COHERENCE THEORY AND THE CORRESPONDENCE THEORY.

- INTRODUCTION
- The Meaning of Coherence theory
- The Meaning of Correspondence theory
- Similarities
- Differences
- Evaluating
- Conclusion.

### Introduction.

## THE COHERENCE THEORY OF TRUTH.

The Coherence Theory of truth asserts that a statement is true if it coheres or fits consistently with a broader system of beliefs. It suggests that truth is determined not by its relationship to an external reality, but by its logical consistency and interconnectedness with other beliefs. For the proponents of this theory no proposition is true in isolation.

The proponents of this theory argues that truth cannot be judged in isolation, instead, it must be evaluated within the framework of an established set of beliefs. For them this theory is associated with idealism and rationalism, where truth is considered a product of structured thought systems rather than empirical verification.

As such coherence theory has the ability to handle abstract concepts such as morality, mathematics and metaphysical claims, especially where empirically claims verification is difficult. It also ensures logical consistency and avoids contradiction within belief systems.

Among the contemporary proponents of this view is Nicholas Rescher, a prominent American philosopher. Rescher developed the coherence theory of truth by emphasizing its pragmatic and epistemic dimensions.

According to Rescher, Coherence is not just about logical consistency but also about explanatory power and practical utility. For him coherent truth must not only be internally consistent but also can contribute to an effective and useful understanding of reality.

Reschers key contribution is that his rejection of the idea that coherence alone is sufficient for truth. For him, coherence theory must work in conjunction with empirical adequacy and practical viability. His approach was to bridge the gap between the traditional coherence and correspondence theories and offer a more comprehensive model of assessing truth.

However it is important to note that the major criticism of the Coherence theory is the problem of multiple coherent systems. For instance, two

competing scientific paradigms may each be internally consistent but contradict one another.

### CORRESPONDENCE THEORY.

The Correspondence theory of truth posits that a statement is true if it accurately represents or corresponds to an external reality. According to this theory, truth is a relationship between propositions and the way the world actually is. A claim is considered true if there is an observable fact or event that confirms it.

This theory is closely linked with empirical and scientific inquiry, as it requires that claims be verified against observable facts and evidence. It has also been influential on realism, which emphasizes objective truth exist independent of human perception.

Correspondence theory appeals to common sense, it aligns with common-sense notions of truth, where statements must match reality to be considered true. It is also useful for empirical sciences, where hypotheses and theories are tested against the physical world.

Among its proponents is Alfred Tarski a polish logician who developed a formal semantic version of the correspondence theory. Other proponents of this theory include; Bertrand Russell, John Locke and Aquinas.

The Correspondence theory however finds the verification of certain types of claims difficult, for instance ethical, aesthetic and metaphysical statements which do not easily correspond to observable facts. Also, critics question how one can reliably access and verify an objective reality without the influence of subjective perception.

### SIMILARITIES.

The Coherence theory and the Correspondence theories aim to provide a framework for determining the validity of statement, however they approach truth from different perspectives, yet they also share some similarities; which include.

1. PURPOSE:- Both theories seek to establish criteria for determining what is true and what is false.

Their purpose is to provide a systematic way to

evaluate truth claims, ensuring that statements are not arbitrary but grounded in reason and evidence.

2. LOGICAL CONSISTENCY:- Both theories acknowledge the importance of consistency in assessing truth. While coherence theory emphasizes internal consistency among beliefs, correspondence theory also values logical validity or congruence with empirical verification, ensuring that statements align with reality and still maintain logical coherence.

3. Dependence on Justification:- Both theories require a form of justification for truth claims. Coherence theory relies on the integration of beliefs with a system, while correspondence theory depends on empirical or factual evidence to support claims.

4. INFLUENCE OF EPISTEMOLOGY:- Both were influenced by epistemological debates and theories of knowledge. Philosophers have drawn upon these theories to develop methodologies for acquiring and verifying knowledge as such influencing disciplines such as Science, Law and Ethics.

## DIFFERENCE

1. FOUNDATION OF TRUTH:- The Coherence theory defines truth based on consistency within a system of beliefs, whereas the Correspondence theory defines truth as the accurate representation of external reality.
2. VERIFICATION METHOD:- The Correspondence relies on empirical evidence and observable reality to determine truth. Coherence theory on the other hand focuses on logical consistency and the mutual support of beliefs, without necessarily needing empirical verification.
3. APPLICABILITY:- The Coherence theory is more suited to abstract, conceptual and theoretical domains such as mathematics, philosophy and law where logical consistency is important. The Correspondence theory on the other hand is widely applicable in empirical sciences, history, and factual investigations.
4. ROLE IN CONSTRUCTING KNOWLEDGE:- The Coherence theory plays a central role in structuring knowledge

systems, ensuring that beliefs are logically interconnected and stable. The correspondence theory however, emphasizes empirical verification: it constructs knowledge based on facts and real world observation.

5. MAJOR WEAKNESS:- Coherence theory is criticized because it struggles with the issue of multiple coherent belief systems that contradict each other, leading to the problem of relativism. The correspondence theory on the other hand faces challenges in verifying truths about abstract or non-empirical concepts, such as morality, aesthetic judgments where objectivity is harder to define.

## EVALUATION

## CONCLUSION