

Ontology & Epistemology

The background features a stylized illustration of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a white lab coat over a blue shirt. She is holding a large magnifying glass with a red frame, which is positioned over the title text. The background is light blue and filled with a network diagram consisting of various colored circles (pink, yellow, blue) connected by thin white lines, suggesting a complex system or data network.

Techno Main Salt Lake

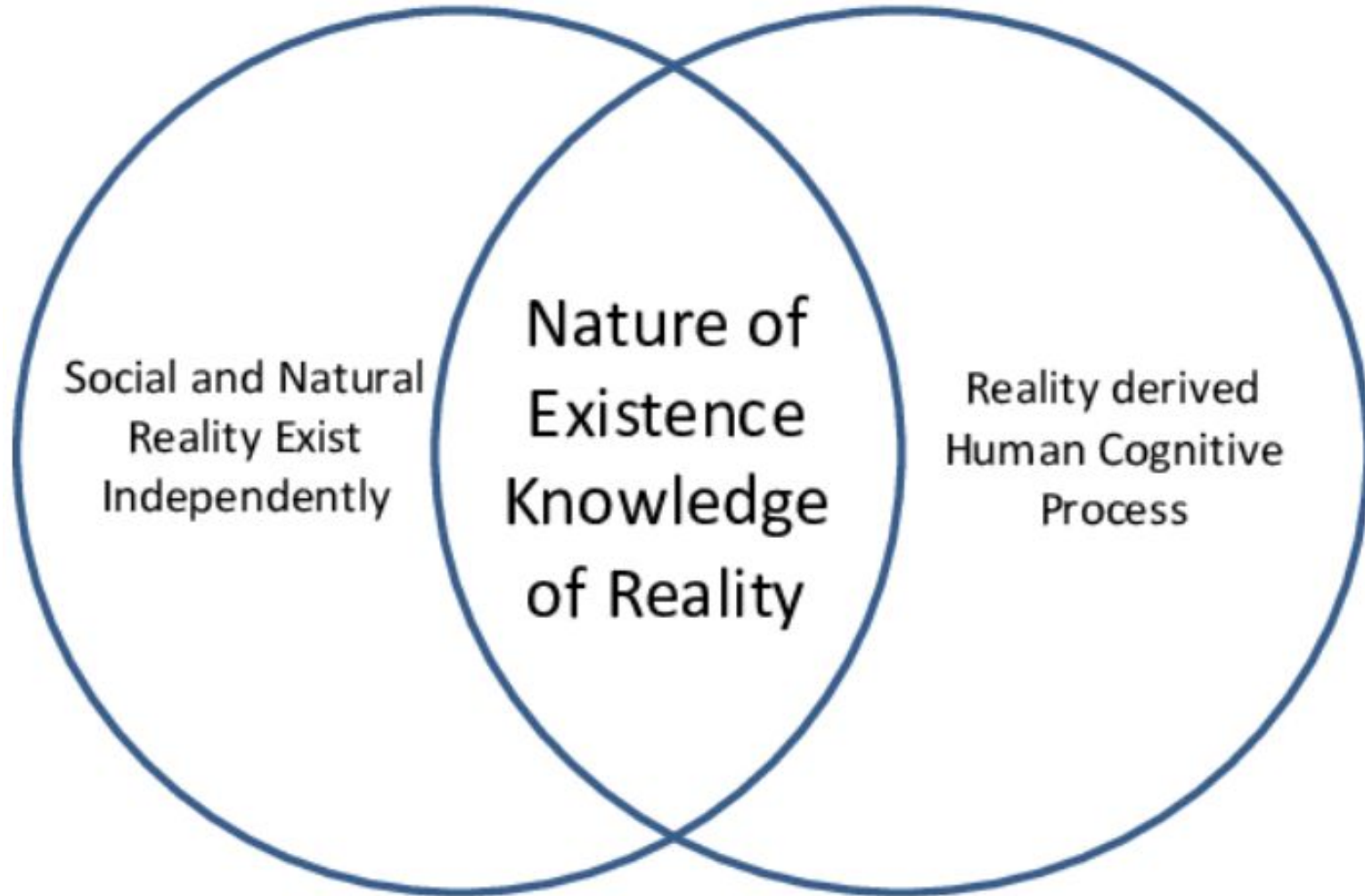
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Ontology

- Ontology is the enquiry of existence.
- To inquire about universe, existence of God, matter, and after death happenings is some of the questions
- Philosophical study of the nature of being, becoming, existence and reality.
- Ontology tells us how the world has come into existence.
- The question “What is there?” is the core concern of ontology.
- Metaphysics is the source of ontology
- Metaphysics- The process of thinking regarding things and defining them in words

Objectivist Ontology

Subjectivist Ontology



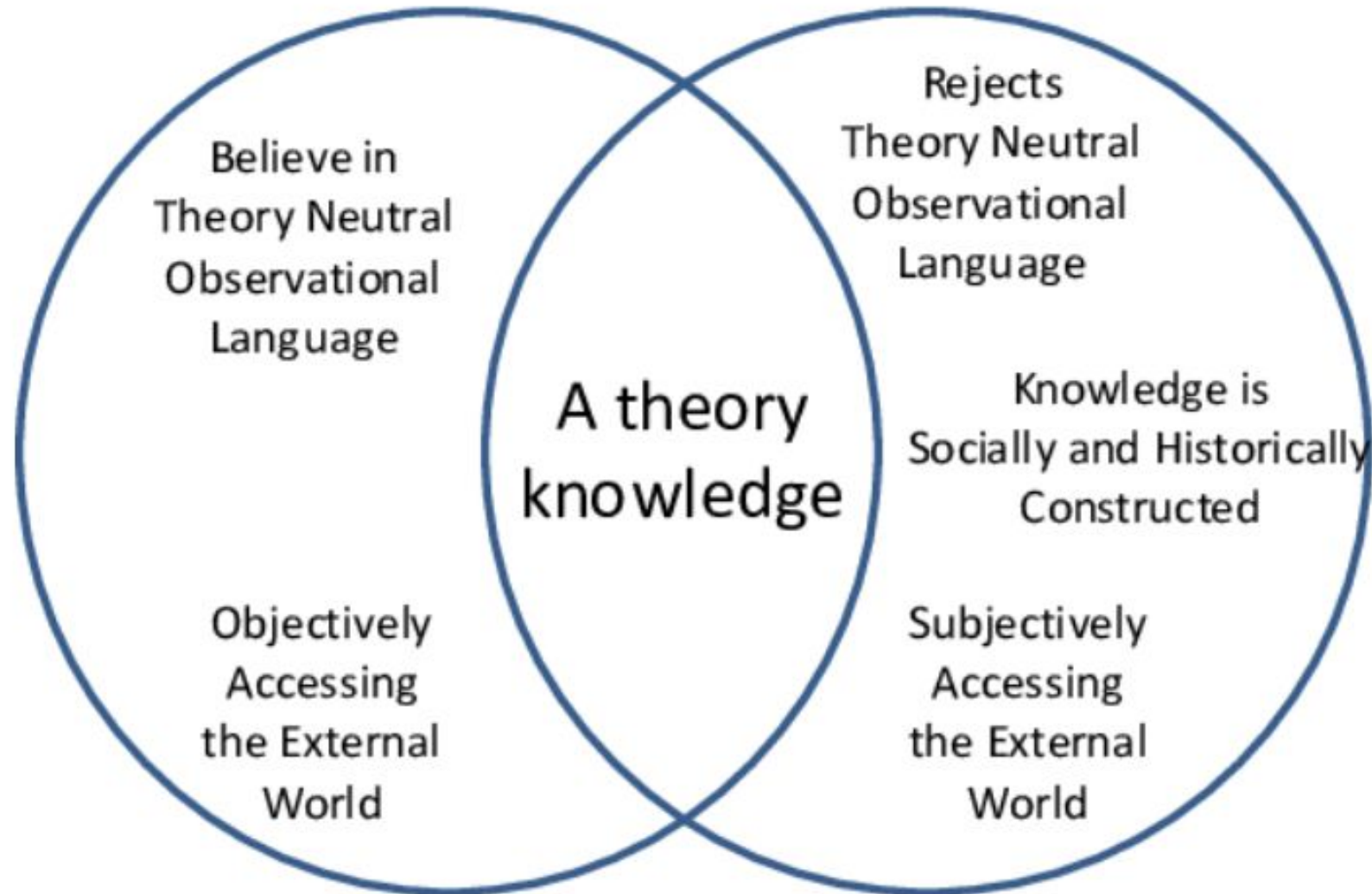
- However, the world is always there beyond our knowledge and life exists since unknown times
- The opposite of ontology is epistemology.
- If ontology is religion, then epistemology is science.
- For example: Religion describes that God exists but epistemology wants proofs, scientific and concrete, rational and logical evidence of God's presence.

Epistemology

- The recognition of truth and falsehood, and the means of obtaining knowledge is the core focus of epistemology.
- It is an investigative science.
- Priori and posteriori knowledge and its practice is an inseparable part of epistemology.
- Epistemology teaches us how we can get knowledge by simply improving our thinking.
- It describes how to learn things without seeing them.
- Therefore, epistemology is an indivisible segment of our thinking process.

Objectivist Epistemology

Subjectivist Epistemology



Epistemology

Objective

Subjective

Ontology

Objective

"What you get is
what you see"

"What you get is
what you say"

Subjective

"What you say is
what you see"

"What you say is
not, you see"



Ontology	What is the nature of the "knowable"? Or What is the nature of reality?
Epistemology	What is the relationship between the knower (the inquirer) and the known (or knowable)?
Methodology	How should the inquirer go about finding out knowledge?



Research Paradigms

Paradigm

- “A philosophical and theoretical framework of a scientific school or discipline within which theories, laws and generalizations and the experiments performed in support of them are formulated”
- The set of common beliefs and agreements shared between scientists about how the problems should be understood and addressed

Paradigm 1- Positivism

Ontology	Epistemology	Methodology
<p>Realist</p> <p>Reality exists “out there”, and is driven by immutable natural laws, and mechanisms is conventionally summarized in the form of time - and context-free generalizations. Some of these latter generalizations take the form of cause-effect laws.</p>	<p>Dualist/ Objectivist</p> <p>It is both possible and essential for the inquirer to adopt a distant, noninteractive posture. Values and other biasing and confounding factors are thereby automatically excluded from influencing the outcome</p>	<p>Experimental/ Manipulative</p> <p>Questions and/ or hypothesis are stated in advance in propositional form and subjected to empirical tests (falsification) under carefully controlled conditions</p>

Paradigm 2- Post-positivism

Ontology	Epistemology	Methodology
<p>Critical Realist</p> <p>Reality exists but can never be fully apprehended. It is driven by natural laws that can be only incompletely understood.</p>	<p>Modified Objectivist</p> <p>Objectivity remains a regulatory ideal, but it can only be approximated, with special emphasis placed on external guardians such as the critical tradition and the critical community</p>	<p>Modified experimental/ Manipulative</p> <p>Emphasize critical multiplism. Redress imbalances by doing inquiry in more natural settings, using more qualitative methods, depending more on grounded theory, and reintroducing discovery into the inquiry process.</p>

Paradigm 3- Critical Theory

Ontology	Epistemology	Methodology
<p>Critical Realist</p> <p>As in the case of postpositivism</p>	<p>Subjectivist</p> <p>In the sense that values mediate inquiry</p>	<p>Dialogic, transformative</p> <p>Eliminate false consciousness and energize and facilitate transformation</p>

Paradigm 4- Constructivism

Ontology	Epistemology	Methodology
<p>Relativist</p> <p>Realities exist in the form of multiple mental constructions, socially and experientially based, local and specific, dependent for their form and content on the persons who hold them.</p>	<p>Subjectivist</p> <p>Inquirer and inquired into are fused into a single (monistic) entity. Findings are literally the creation of the process of interaction between the two.</p>	<p>Hermeneutic, dialectic</p> <p>Individual constructions are elicited and refined hermeneutically, and compared and contrasted dialectically, with the aim of generating one (or a few) constructions on which there is substantial consensus.</p>