

Empiricism :-

→ Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Russell, Moore, Wittgenstein, Carnap, ~~and many others~~

→ Distinction between classical empiricism & contemporary empiricism :-

- includes much of logico-mathematical elements
- W.V. Quine - Reductionism called it.
- All cognitively meaningful statements can be reduced to two basic statements - analytic & synthetic.
- all synthetic statements can be reduced to sense-data or protol statements or immediate sense-experience.

*! → Hume :- Two kinds of propositions :- concerning

Relations of Ideas

- deal with number or quantity, Analytic
- necessary
- whose predicate cannot be denied without involving self-contradiction.
- *not from sense-experience.

Matters of fact (sense experience)

- Synthetic,
- actual state of affairs
- from - sense experience
- a posteriori

→ Contemporary Empiricists: -

even Analytic propositions are derived from sense-experience. ~~It~~ It is an established fact due to the consistent use of the stipulated definitions by convention.

'Two & Two are together equal to four' has not been reached by observing a number of instances of two and two becoming four. The 'necessity' ~~between~~ ^{between} the relationship between '2+2' and '4' is due to the consistent use of the stipulated definitions of 'two', 'plus' and 'four'. As these definitions are matters of convention, so analytic propositions concern conventional use of terms only.

→ Empiricist Thesis: - "All Ideas are derived from experience"

Contemporary -

↳ Ideas - as sense-data, protocol-statements or basic propositions. At times these are taken to be 'propositions' and at other times their extra-linguistic referents are also emphasized.

↳ 'derived from sense-experience' - The theory of verifiability.

↳ 'derived from' - 'reduced to' the most elementary propositions which may be wholly linguistic or extra-linguistic.

Now a synthetic proposition is said to be reducible to propositions, either linguistic or extra-linguistic.

→ The trouble of the classical empiricism was that it could not explain the necessity involved in propositions concerning numbers and mathematical demonstrations. This was a ~~point~~ point with the rationalist. According to him 'necessity' cannot be derived from experience, but follows directly from the innate faculty of reason. This necessity was derived from the a priori elements, which instead of being derived from experience make experience itself intelligible or possible.

This problem was explained by contemporary empiricists by advancing the theory of conventionalism

mathematical necessity
derived from convention

Fundamentals of classical Empiricism:-

Locke, Berkeley, Hume.

Basic Thesis:- 'if there is anything in the intellect which is not previously given in the senses.' Every form of knowledge should ultimately be based on sense-experience, outer or inner.

→ our knowledge of the table is fully analysed in terms of the sense qualities or sensory data of colour, weight, touch etc. Apart from these nothing more is required for explaining knowledge.

→ There is no factual knowledge of a thing if there is no sense-experience about it. no possibility of knowing colour as sensation for a person who is born blind.

(1) mind at birth is a clean slate or tabula rasa. All the characters of knowledge are acquired through sense-experience.

(2) Sensation and reflection, the outer and inner sense-experience, are the only two windows through which the dark chamber of mind comes to be filled with light.

(3) The elements of experience are all simple and unrelated.
Sensations of light & heat, color & smell etc.

(4) Universal propositions can satisfactorily be explained by particulars.

(5) We find that judging, relating and combining the discrete items of sense-impressions is the special function of intellect. Without these functions there can be no knowledge proper.

(6) mind is passive with regard to simple ideas.

Empiricism and mathematical propositions:-

→ in mathematics propositions are universal and necessary.

They cannot be obtained from experience. Universal propositions deal with all instances coming under them. 'all men are mortal'. We cannot experience all men dying, since the experiencing man, a philosopher has to be alive to make this statement. All men cannot be brought under experience.

→ experience can inform us that this has been so, it cannot tell us that this must be so.

Rationalism

- Intellect is an independent source of knowledge. This supplies us with self-evident innate ideas.
- Knowledge is constituted by innate ideas alone. (necessary & universal)
- Sense-experience serves an occasion for the exercise of intellect. Sense-experience illustrates a universal truth given by our intellect. Sense experience can clarify but does not constitute knowledge. ~~is~~
- mind is active both in obtaining self-evident innate ideas and in constituting knowledge.
- The theory of innate ideas was transformed into that of a priori truths by Kant. Now rationalism does not explain universality and necessity involved in knowledge.

→ A priori truths, According to Kant, are universal, because they follow from the common mental constitution of all human thinkers or thinkers.

→ All human beings in thinking do take the help of the Categories.

→ Rationalism does not explain necessity. Mind gives its own laws and without these laws it cannot think at all. Mind cannot help stating these very laws which it gives to things, while thinking about them.

Issues between empiricism & rationalism:

→ The empiricists draw their model from empirical experience of everyday life. - phy, che.

→ The rationalists have their model from mathematics.

→ Kant occupied himself with physics to try to reconcile empiricism and rationalism.

→ Meaningful propositions: -

Proposition of facts

- ↳ based on sense-experience
- ↳ not universal, uncertain
- ↳ probable
- ↳ contingent
- ↳ actual state of affairs

Proposition of math.

- ↳ necessary
- ↳ geometry
- ↳ does not deal with actually observed points, lines & surfaces. A point has position but no magnitude. Line-length, not breadth.
- ↳ no observed line can be found without breadth.

Kant: - Synthetic a priori

↳ empirical
phy

↳ formal
math + logic