

QUINE



AIM

1. To refute the 2 Dogmas of Modern Empiricism because these are not based on **Empirical Evidence**.
2. To propound Radical Empiricism.

1st Dogma of Empiricism

Distinction between analytic and synthetic statements: - Empiricists make a distinction between the two propositions.

Analytic

Bachelor is unmarried male.

Based on Meaning of words

No requirements for experience

Synthetic

Material objects are heavy:

Require experience for validation/invalidation

- However Quine rejects this view that Analytic statements do not have any demand for experiential evidence. It is because, modern empiricists have not analysed analytic statements properly. Quine gives two views and rejects both of them:

1. ANALYTICITY IS DEFINITION [LINGUISTIC THEORY OF NECESSARY PROPOSITIONS]:

Bachelor is unmarried male can be understood only by meaning of words because bachelor is described as unmarried male. However Quine rejects this view. According to him, this requires experience of linguistic behaviour. As behaviour changes, relation between words and meanings will also change.

Therefore, Analytic statements can't be explained on the basis of definition.

2. ANALYTICITY IS COGNITIVE SYNONYMY:

Empirics maintain that bachelor and unmarried male are synonyms.

Quine rejects this and says that cognitive synonymy is based on facts and hence will be contingent and not necessary. We have to see the social setup to know empirically whether bachelor and unmarried indicate towards the same state of man.

Therefore, Analytic statements can't be explained by cognitive synonymy.

Hence it is established that no analytic statement can be analytic in strict sense, experience has a role to play.

Comparison:

1. J.S Mill was also to the view that experience can sufficiently explain analytic statements.
2. Kant also makes a distinction based on subject-Predicate relationship.

Criticised:

Ayer had criticised Mill's views, there is a difference between origin of knowledge and validation of knowledge. In so far as origin is concerned, all knowledge originates in experience, however for validation, statements can be

- 1) **Analytic**, if no experience required for validation
- 2) **Sympathy**, if experience if required for validation

2nd Dogma of Empiricism

- Reductionism: A critique of Russell and likes, empiricists try to reduce complex statements into simple facts and simple facts are verified by experience.
E.g. Russell: Molecular propositions are logical constructions of atomic propositions.
Wittgenstein: The truth function of molecular propositions are atomic propositions no corresponding atomic fact.

Quine rejects this view and states that "Knowledge functions as an integrated whole. It is not possible to verify atomic facts in isolation. Such verification is not empirical and no fact can be verified unless all facts are verified by experience."

Conclusion:

- By rejecting both Dogmas, Quine propounds his own Theory of Verification in the form of **Radical empiricism that is any verification not verified by sense-experience is meaningless. He makes a new distinction between analytic and synthetic one of degree and not form.**
- Analytic statements are limiting case of synthetic propositions. Synthetic statements can be verified in each & every case while analytic statements are verified unless verified proposition are meaningless. Utilises a distinction made by Carnap that every statement has two kinds of element factual & verbal.
- Therefore, both Analytic & Synthetic propositions can be explained in limits of empiricism.

Criticism:

1. Against ordinary language philosophy.
2. Hume in new form.
3. Ayer's criticism of Mill.
4. His verification Theory similar to Carvakas "Perception is the only Pramana."

Importance

Exalting natural sciences and a fight against Dogmatic, superstitions and irrational beliefs, only evaluating on such grounds can his philosophy be justified.



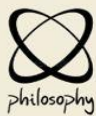
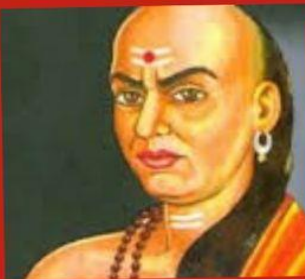
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