



## Controversial Discourses: A Critical Examination of Western Philosophy

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### ABSTRACT

This review paper explores key themes in Western philosophy, addressing questions on logic, epistemology, and metaphysics. It emphasizes the diverse influences on philosophy, including cultural and historical factors. The evolution of philosophy, its subjective classification, and the contrasting views on history by Hegel and Hume are discussed. Wittgenstein's pragmatic philosophy, Heidegger's three-fold structure, and Husserl's self-evidence contribute to understanding being. The examination of idealism, metaphysics, and human consciousness reveals philosophical complexities. In conclusion, philosophy shapes human knowledge, integrating the visible and invisible worlds, and continues to evolve, fostering a dialogue about the nature of reality.

## INTRODUCTION

In this review paper, we delve into the intricate landscape of Western philosophy, unraveling its crucial thoughts on logical, epistemological, and metaphysical paradigms. The overarching aim is to address fundamental questions that have fueled philosophical discourse for centuries. At its core, philosophy is a relentless quest for understanding and knowledge. It is the disciplined exploration of fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. Philosophers grapple with these inquiries, aiming to unravel the mysteries of the universe and human experience. The multifaceted influences on philosophy are as diverse as the questions it seeks to answer. Cultural, historical, societal, and individual factors all contribute to shaping philosophical perspectives. The interplay of these influences creates a rich tapestry of thought that defines the trajectory of Western philosophy. Western philosophy, expansive in its scope, spans centuries and traverses various schools of thought. It encompasses inquiries into the nature of reality, the foundations of knowledge, the essence of being, and the role of morality. This broad exploration contributes to the continuous evolution and diversity within the Western philosophical tradition.

## METHODOLOGY

This review paper delves into the fundamental concepts of Western philosophy, exploring inquiries into reasoning, knowledge, and the nature of reality. It underscores the varied influences on philosophical thought, encompassing both cultural and historical dimensions. The paper delves into the development of philosophical ideas, delving into subjective categorizations and contrasting historical interpretations offered by Hegel and Hume. Contributions from thinkers such as Wittgenstein, Heidegger, and Husserl are examined, shedding light on different aspects of existence. The analysis extends to idealism, metaphysical considerations, and the intricacies of human consciousness, revealing the depth of philosophical inquiry. Ultimately, the paper asserts that philosophy plays a vital role in shaping our understanding of the world, bridging the tangible and intangible realms, and continually engaging in discussions on the nature of reality.

## RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### **Philosophy's Multifaceted Tapestry: Unraveling Its Definition and Typology**

The term "philosophy" encapsulates a rich and diverse array of meanings, characterized by its extensive range of subjects and an elusive, unanimous definition among philosophers. From its inception, philosophy lacked a clear demarcation, with no distinct lines separating one field from another. This ambiguity, however, underwent a gradual transformation as certain Ancient Greek philosophers embarked on the intriguing journey of categorization.

The early stages of categorization within philosophy saw significant progress, particularly among Ancient Greek philosophers. While the delineation of distinct fields was not initially apparent, these philosophical thinkers laid the groundwork for identifying specific domains of inquiry. Their

endeavors resulted in the recognition of five main broad categories that formed the foundational pillars of philosophy: metaphysics, logic, epistemology, ethics, and politics. These categories, though broad, provided a preliminary structure to the multifaceted landscape of philosophical exploration.

The identified categories, namely metaphysics, logic, epistemology, ethics, and politics, served as overarching themes that encompassed a wide spectrum of philosophical inquiry. Metaphysics delved into the nature of reality and existence, while logic focused on the principles of sound reasoning. Epistemology sought to unravel the nature and limits of human knowledge, and ethics and politics addressed questions related to morality and governance. Despite the attempt at categorization, the classification of philosophy remains inherently subjective. This subjectivity is a reflection of the diverse personalities of philosophers, themselves influenced by historical and cultural factors. These external influences contribute to the recurring and evolving conception of philosophy, making its classification a dynamic and ever-changing endeavor.

The fluidity of philosophy's classification is evident in its constant adaptation to the nuances of historical and cultural contexts. As philosophical perspectives shift with time, so does the understanding of its categories. This dynamism highlights the evolving nature of philosophy, where the boundaries between categories blur, and new themes emerge, enriching the overall philosophical discourse.

Philosophy's expansive tapestry defies rigid definitions, allowing for a continuous evolution that mirrors the dynamic nature of human thought and inquiry. The journey initiated by Ancient Greek philosophers serves as a testament to the ongoing quest for understanding, where the classification of philosophy is not a fixed endpoint but a journey that unfolds with each new philosophical inquiry.

### **Philosophical Perspectives on History: Hegel's Logical Development vs. Hume's Causal Lens**

Why history has had a significant impact on philosophy is that people experience situations that vary from time to time. Friedrich Hegel, a prominent German philosopher, propounds a distinctive view on the nature of history, asserting that it embodies a 'logical development.' In Hegel's philosophical framework, historical events are not merely a sequence of chronological occurrences or isolated stages but are intricately interconnected, forming a logical progression. According to Hegel, each phase in history is a necessary step in the unfolding of an overarching, rational, and purposeful historical process. Events are not arbitrary; instead, they are interconnected by a rational thread, reflecting the evolution of human consciousness and spirit.

For Hegel, historical events are not random, disjointed episodes; rather, they are integral components of a grand narrative that moves towards a predetermined endpoint. The influences and developments in this sequence of events are not haphazard but are guided by an underlying logic, contributing to the evolution of human thought, culture, and institutions. In essence, history, in

Hegel's philosophy, is not a mere accumulation of facts but a dynamic, interconnected, and purposeful unfolding of the human spirit.

On the other hand, David Hume, a Scottish philosopher, presents a contrasting perspective on causation and historical events. Hume's empiricist philosophy posits that each event in history is the result of a prior event, adhering to the principles of cause and effect. According to Hume, causal relationships are established through observation and experience, and events unfold in a continuous chain of cause-and-effect relationships.

In Hume's framework, historical events lack the teleological character attributed to them by Hegel. Instead, events occur as a consequence of preceding occurrences, adhering to the laws of causation. Hume's philosophy emphasizes the empirical nature of knowledge, suggesting that our understanding of historical events is derived from the observable patterns of causation and regularities in the world.

Therefore, while Hegel perceives history as a purposeful, interconnected development guided by a rational order, Hume's perspective grounds historical causation in empirical observations, emphasizing the sequential and contingent nature of events. These differing views on the nature of history reflect the broader philosophical debates surrounding determinism, teleology, and the foundations of human knowledge.

In the context of examining the Hegelian theory, Somalis were long awaiting independence during the colonial period. This theory considers this epoch of colonization as a unique stage, labeled as stage (A), for example. However, after Somalis gained their independence from colonial rule, this situation evolves into another stage, denoted as stage (B). However, if you go back how most of Somalis were thinking during these two stages then you get the point on why history matters. In many ways many people argue that Somali's current anarchy is the result of Siyad's dictatorial rule and his tranny rule this is fits Humbe's law of cause and effect.

### **Wittgenstein's Pragmatic Philosophy: Unveiling Truth through Everyday Language**

In this exploration of Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophical contributions, we delve into the intricate interplay between language, metaphysics, and the pursuit of truth. Wittgenstein's unique intellectual character, as evidenced in his later work, "Philosophical Investigations," offers a departure from traditional metaphysical speculations and abstract concepts prevalent in science. His approach, marked by a commitment to simplicity and accessibility, introduces the concept of language games, emphasizing the practical and dynamic nature of language in our everyday lives.

Wittgenstein's philosophical journey leads him to posit a significant correlation between language and thought, encapsulated in his assertion, 'Once you get the limits of language, we have reached the limits of our thought.' This foundational idea underscores the pivotal role language plays in shaping our understanding and cognitive processes (Wittgenstein, 1998).

Central to Wittgenstein's philosophy is the rejection of metaphysical speculation and typical abstractions found in science. Instead, he advocates for

an understanding of language firmly grounded in the practical and observable aspects of our daily experiences. The idea of "one world" emerges, emphasizing the unity of our shared human experience and dismissing the need for speculative metaphysical realms.

In "Philosophical Investigations," Wittgenstein introduces the concept of language games, challenging the notion that meaning is fixed by abstract definitions. He highlights the contextual and social aspects of language use, suggesting that meaning is embedded in the various activities and practices where language is employed. This departure from rigid definitions allows for a more nuanced and dynamic understanding of linguistic communication.

Wittgenstein's emphasis on the pursuit of truth and wisdom through philosophy underscores a pragmatic approach. Instead of indulging in abstract theorizing divorced from everyday language, he advocates for unraveling the complexities of ordinary language in diverse contexts. This pragmatic pursuit is intended not just for an intellectual elite but for everyone to comprehend, aligning with Wittgenstein's commitment to a philosophy accessible to a broad audience.

Wittgenstein's later work advocates for a philosophical perspective that transcends the confines of academic abstraction. It rejects the speculative realms of metaphysics, engaging with the practical use of language in diverse contexts. The objective is to uncover truths inherently tied to our shared, everyday experiences. This philosophy invites universal understanding, bridging the gap between complex theoretical discourse and the accessible reality of everyday language. Wittgenstein's legacy lies in his invitation to explore profound truths within the simplicity of our shared linguistic interactions.

### **Exploring the Essence of Being: Heidegger's Three-Fold Structure and Husserl's Notion of Self-Evidence**

In this philosophical exploration, we delve into the intricate question of being, unraveling various analytic pathways that fuel the curiosity to understand the nature of reality. As we navigate these existential inquiries, we encounter the classification of human existence into significant, interdependent types, each marked by distinct characteristics.

Heidegger, a prominent figure in existential philosophy, introduces a compelling three-fold structure that vividly elaborates on human existence (Heidegger, 2008). This tripartite framework encompasses understanding, mood, and discourse, each representing a distinct vantage point or characteristic condition. Understanding, for instance, grants individuals contextual insight, enabling the acquisition of knowledge and engagement in diverse activities. Mood, as per Heidegger, encompasses a collection of psycho-states, including happiness, anxiety, and worry, emanating from the innate human spirit. Discourse, the third element, stands as a testament to the integral role language plays in the realm of reasoning beings.

As individuals grapple with the question of being, human folly becomes apparent in the attempts to prove existence through systematic methodological

processes. The discourse surrounding this question may or may not reach a conclusive end, yet it remains poignant and thought-provoking.

Contrasting with Heidegger, Husserl introduces the notion of self-evidence, asserting that human beings don't need to seek themselves. He posits that individuals are sufficiently equipped to ascertain certainty about their origins. Husserl concludes his argument by asserting that the knower comes before the known, suggesting that universal metaphysical beliefs should be embraced later rather than sooner. In this context, those who hold these beliefs are the knowers, contributing to the unfolding narrative of existential inquiry.

This philosophical journey navigates the complexities of being, from Heidegger's intricate tripartite structure to Husserl's emphasis on self-evidence. As we grapple with the profound question of existence, these diverse perspectives enrich our understanding, inviting contemplation on the essence of human nature and the intricate fabric of reality.

### **Philosophical Explorations: Idealism, Metaphysics, and the Development of Human Consciousness**

The philosophical landscape, shaped by thinkers like Descartes, Kant, Spinoza, and Plato, leans towards internality or inwardness, prioritizing contemplation of internal aspects before delving into the external world. This approach highlights two distinct realms in our world: the world of nature, encompassing visible things, and the world of spirit, scrutinized phenomenologically.

A critical observation reveals a lack of conceptualized theories regarding the causations of the world in philosophical discourse. Metaphysical works have fallen short in proposing substantial theories about the world's inception. The suggestion that only revelations from God can fill this gap adds a spiritual dimension to the pursuit of understanding the universe, as expressed in Quran verses.

Philosophical inquiry extends to the intricacies of human consciousness, particularly addressing the pre-state of self-consciousness. The analysis suggests that our inner mind possesses the ability to know, judge, and think abstractly, even before reaching reflective self-awareness. The recognition of a developmental process in human consciousness challenges the traditional assumption of innate knowledge.

The opposing concepts in philosophy, such as idealism versus realism and empiricism versus rationalism, represent fundamental divides. Idealism tends to perceive situations as they appear, while realism seeks to understand them as they truly are. Rationalism relies on reasoning, while empiricism posits experience as the source of knowledge. These contrasting views generate ideological tendencies that shape philosophical

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Philosophy emerges as a fascinating field from which all human knowledge originates. It rigorously examines and integrates the visible world, the invisible world, and the human spirit. The exploration of metaphysical gaps, the development of human consciousness, and the clash of opposing concepts add depth to the profound inquiries that philosophy undertakes. As an evolving discipline, it continues to shape our understanding of existence and consciousness, contributing to the ongoing dialogue about the nature of reality.

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