

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION EPISTEMOLOGY

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Abstract. *Epistemology is the philosophy branch which studies knowledge origin, sources and validity. This tries to answer to questions as which is true? and how could we know? Because the Epistemology study deals with aspects as knowledge foundation and the characteristic of various methods to learn the certain truth, this is placed, near Metaphysics, in the centre of the education process [1].*

Keywords: education, epistemology, the pragmatic theory, the coherence theory, epistemic reflection.

1. Introduction

Along human history it was clearly discovered that there were false accepted beliefs, once, as being true. How could anyone say that some beliefs are true, while others are false? What criteria could we use? Could we ever be certain that the truth was discovered? Most people agree that tradition, instinct and powerful feelings are inadequate as tests of truth.

The universal agreement is, likewise, doubtful (...). The philosophers mainly built upon three tests of truth: the correspondence theory, the coherence theory, the pragmatic theory.

The correspondence theory is a test which uses the agreement with *the fact* as a standard in judgement. According to this theory, the truth is in concordance with the objective reality.

For example, the clause *there is a lion in the classroom* can be verified through an empirical investigation. If the judgement corresponds with the facts, it is true; if not, it is false. The critics of the correspondence theory dealt with three main objections. First, they asked: *how could we compare ideas with reality, as we only know our own experiences and we cannot get out of our experiences in order to compare ideas with reality in its "pure" state?* and, in the second place, they observed that the correspondence theory seemed, likewise, to make the general supposition that the sensorial data are clear and exact. And, in the third place, the critics showed that the theory is inadequate because we had ideas that did not have a concrete existence, which we could make comparisons to, beyond human thoughts.

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