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THEORIES OF TRUTH

CC-12
Philosophy

SEM-V

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THERE ARE THREE MAJOR THEORIES OF TRUTH IN WESTERN PHILOSOPHY.

Truth is related to knowledge, if we try to define the nature of knowledge, then we have to define first truth.

Truth is attribute of statement or proposition.

G.E. Moore, A.J .Ayer.

The Correspondence Theory of Truth.

- ✘ The Coherence Theory of Truth.
- ✘ The Pragmatic Theory of Truth

THE CORRESPONDENCE THEORY

- ✘ According to Correspondence theory, true statements are those that correspond to the way the world actually is.
- ✘ This idea can be seen in various forms throughout the history of philosophy. Its modern history starts with the beginnings of analytic philosophy at the turn of the 20th century, particularly in the work of G. E. Moore and Bertrand Russell.

WHEN AN IDEA OR BELIEF IS TRUE OR FALSE?

- ✘ An idea or belief which corresponds with reality is true, while an idea or belief which does not correspond with reality is false.

FACT and BELIEF

- ✘ A fact is some set of circumstances in the world while a belief is an opinion about those what those facts are.

WE LABEL CERTAIN BELIEFS AS “TRUE” IS BECAUSE THEY CORRESPOND TO THOSE FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD.

- ✘ The sky is blue is a “true” belief because of the fact that the sky is blue.
- ✘ Along with beliefs, we can count statements, propositions, sentences, etc. as capable of being true or false.

WHEN A PROPOSITION IS TRUE?

- ✘ Sachin Tendulkar is a world-class cricketer– this proposition is true because this proposition or statement correspond to the actual state of affairs or fact.



CRITIANO RONALDO IS A WARLD-CLASS FOOT BALLER-TRUE PROPOSITION.



FALSE PROPOSITION

- ✘ If we say Sachin is a great footballer & Ronaldo is a great cricketer , then these both statements must be false. Because these statements do not correspond to reality or fact of the world.
- ✘ (1)x is true iff x corresponds to some fact;
x is false iff x does not correspond to any fact;
- ✘ (2)x is true iff x corresponds to some state of affairs that obtains;
x is false iff x corresponds to some state of affairs that does not obtain.
- ✘ (3)x is true iff x corresponds to some fact that exists;
x is false iff x corresponds to some fact that does not exist,
- ✘ (4)x is true iff x corresponds with some fact;
x is false iff x mis-corresponds with some fact
- ✘ (iff= if and only if)

THE COHERENCE THEORY

- ✘ The Coherence Theory of truth is probably second popular truth-theory.
- ✘ A belief is true when it fits in with the set of all our other beliefs without creating a contradiction.
- ✘ A isn't absolutely true or false, but relatively true or false.
- ✘ A is true, as it is coherent to B, C, D,E etc.

- ✘ Bradley, Bernard Bosanquet , Neurath, Hempel , Carnap.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COHERENCE AND CORRESPONDENCE THEORY.

- ✘ Coherence Theory isn't that far from the Correspondence Theory and the reason is that while individual statements may be judged as true or false based upon their ability to *cohere* with a larger system, it is assumed that that system is one which accurately *corresponds* to reality.
- ✘ A belief is true if and only if it is part of a coherent system of beliefs.

THE PRAGMATIC THEORY OF TRUTH

- ✘ The Pragmatic Theory of truth determines whether or not a belief is true or not based on whether it has a useful (pragmatic) application in the world. If it does not, then it is not true.
- ✘ Truth is made just as health, wealth and strength are made in the course of experience.
- ✘ It is verified, useful, changeable, made by event etc.
- ✘ W.James, C.S.Pars, Jhone Due, F.C.S.Shilar.

THANK YOU

