

The anti-realist theory revolves around notions of verification and falsification by a methodology of respect for evidence.

As the dialogue begins, the anti-realist is questioning the meaning and validity of the realist's pictures "pictures" of possible unknown histories surrounding his motor vehicle. The realist is quick to remind the anti-realist that his thoughts are aimed at reality and not random. The anti-realist is looking for evidential information from the realist for his accidental truths.

Undecidable questions and problematic propositions in regard to truth and all falsity are recognized and mentioned. The particular case of being wrong and the opposite case of establishing a proposition as true have been acknowledged just like other judgments. Unexpected new evidence bringing about judgment corrections seems to cover all the possibilities.

In the light of these problematic conditions, the realist is able to state his thesis "at least some undecidable questions have answers". The anti-realist seeks to refute this thesis by a methodology, which analyzes the existing evidence and points out that the realist has no real answer to the "such and such" questions. Now the realist digs deeper and presents a fundamental law of logic, the excluded middle. The excluded middle has the effect of giving propositions an answer; one or the other must be true.

The anti-realist will not accept the outcome of the excluded middle and for some reason agrees that one or the other propositions must be true. However, the realist still has a point to make regarding undecidable propositions and introduces symbolic quantification. A syllogism like dialogue around the symbolic "P" ensues. Having exhausted P, the realist claims that not all propositions are false citing the excluded middle.

The anti-realist, after excusing herself, reaffirms her view that there are no answers to undecidable questions that are true. Just true or false. The realist re-submits his "P" dialogue which brings no change in the assertion of the anti-realist. Perhaps at this point in the dialogue there is a suspicion emerging that the debate is becoming moribund.

It may be that the sophist in Ancient Greece is signaling the direction of the debate with his linguistic joke suggesting that the dog is some gentlemen's father.

The House of Commons speech seems to be in some danger of becoming an infinite regress as to the speculations of how the speech may end. It could be truncated, elongated or altered and in the extreme, death itself may intervene. Perhaps "divine" beings could be on the agenda in some form or other.

At this point in time, "playing with words" looks a reasonable description of the dialogue to date. I would not describe the continuing arguments from realist and anti-realist as negative. To me both arguments offer well-rounded and rational foundations. There are times when I find the posits of the anti-realist somewhat glib and illogical.

It appears that the realist is not able to provide a definitive answer to the question of "such and such" on request. The anti-realist is able to switch the focus to "which" questions are answerable rather than there being an answer per se. However, the excluded middle and the symbolic quantification of "P" from the realist seem to obtain along

with the truisms.

The anti-realist's assertion of "would be verified at the ideal limit of enquiry" and "can be indefeasibly verified" seemed not to gain sufficient traction for the knockout blow.

I rather thought both realist and anti-realists arguments were informative and thought provoking without providing any definitive answer one way or the other. It would not seem reasonable to describe the debate in terms of negativity given the efforts on behalf of both parties.

Dear Dr Kempner,

Thank you for your reply to my query regarding my hieroglyphs and numeracy and literacy.

The annotations for unit 9 are on the way and I do not seem to have received any comment on my previous essay "Egocentric Subjectivity". May I have unit 10?

Regards, John.