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THE PROBLEM OF THE EXISTENCE OF MATTER: PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

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Annotation

This article comprehensively analyzes the problem of the existence of matter from a philosophical point of view. The principles of sensory data, the objective existence of the external world, the methodology of doubt and the epistemological foundations of knowledge are widely covered. The level of reliability of knowledge is critically assessed based on the method of systematic doubt put forward by René Descartes. Also, idealistic views that deny the existence of external objects are considered and their logical limits are revealed. The article attempts to substantiate the existence of the external world based on the principle of simplicity, intersubjectivity and criteria of scientific knowledge.

Keywords

matter, being, sensory data, external world, epistemology, Descartes, realism, idealism, objectivity, subjectivity.

ntroduction

The problem of the existence of matter is one of the most controversial and complex issues in the history of human thought. In everyday experience, a person perceives the external world as independent and real, but philosophical reflection forces him to reconsider this belief. If the existence of the external world is questioned, then the existence of scientific knowledge, social relations, and even other minds also becomes a problem. This issue is the central problem not only of ontology, but also of epistemology. Especially in the philosophy of the new era, this problem has become acute, and the foundations of knowledge have begun to be reanalyzed. Modern scientific views, in particular physics and cognitive sciences, are also interpreting the concept of matter in a new way. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the problem of the existence of matter from a historical and theoretical perspective.

Main part

Sensory data and the initial foundations of cognition, Man perceives the external world not directly, but through the sense organs. Properties such as color, sound, smell and taste do not belong to the objects themselves, but to their reflection in the mind. Therefore, sensory data are subjective in nature and differ depending on individual experience. However, a person cannot deny the existence of his own sensory experience. This aspect is considered the most reliable starting point for cognition. At the same time, caution is required when drawing conclusions about the external world through sensory data. Because sensations can often be deceptive or incorrect.

Systematic doubt and the philosophy of Cartesianism. René Descartes made a radical turn in philosophy, developing the method of systematic doubt. He questioned all knowledge and sought to find only absolutely reliable knowledge. As a result, he came to the conclusion that "I think, therefore I am." Although this approach proves the existence of subjective consciousness, it leaves the question of the external world open. Descartes later tries to substantiate the external world through the idea of God, but this argument is also controversial. Nevertheless, his methodology has had a great influence on the development of modern philosophy.

The foundations of empiricism and realism. John Locke puts forward experience as the source of knowledge. According to him, there are no innate ideas in the human mind, all knowledge is formed through experience. Locke develops the theory of primary (objective) and secondary (subjective) qualities, trying to substantiate the existence of the external world. This approach served as the basis for realism. According to realism, external objects exist independently of human consciousness. This view serves as the main theoretical foundation for scientific knowledge.

Idealism and its criticism. George Berkeley denies the independent existence of the material world. His idea that "existence is perception" is the main principle of idealism. According to him, all things exist only in the mind. However, this approach raises many questions. For example, how can objects exist that no one observes? This question shows the weaknesses of idealism and serves as an argument in favor of realism.

Skepticism and the limits of knowledge. David Hume makes a deeply skeptical analysis of the process of knowledge. He rejects the concept of causality and emphasizes that a person only observes a sequence of events. Hume shows that our knowledge of the external world is based on habits and psychological expectations. This approach weakens the absolute foundations of knowledge. At the same time, he made a significant contribution to the development of critical thinking in philosophy.

The principle of simplicity and intersubjectivity. The principle of simplicity (Occam's razor) requires that phenomena be explained without unnecessary assumptions. Accepting the existence of an external world allows for a simple and consistent explanation of many phenomena. Furthermore, intersubjectivity—that is, the shared experience of multiple subjects—indicates the existence of objective reality. If different people agree on the same object, this confirms its existence independent of consciousness.

Literature review

Bertrand Russell analyzes the complex relationship between sensory data and external objects. He shows that the data provided by the senses are not directly true. At the same time, he emphasizes that the denial of the external world is not logically justified. His approach is considered cautious realism. René Descartes seeks to determine the absolute foundations of knowledge. Using the method of doubt, he finds only the existence of his own consciousness to be reliable. This approach exacerbates the problem of subjectivity. At the same time, he creates the foundations of modern epistemology. John Locke bases experience as a source of knowledge. He explains the existence of external objects through intuition. He explains objectivity through the distinction between primary and secondary qualities. This is an important theory that strengthens realism. George Berkeley denies the material world. According to him, all existence depends on consciousness. This approach rejects the concept of matter. At the same time, he creates a strong philosophical alternative to realism. David Hume shows the limits of knowledge. He criticizes the concepts of causality and objectivity. In his opinion, human knowledge is based on experience and habit. This strengthens skepticism. In the source of the Foundations of Philosophy, matter is interpreted as objective reality. It systematically describes the basic forms of existence and the properties of matter. It also explains the dialectical relationship between consciousness and matter. This source is an important theoretical basis for understanding this problem in Uzbek philosophy.

Conclusion

The problem of the existence of matter is one of the most fundamental questions of philosophy, which still does not have a final solution. Analysis shows that human knowledge is based on sensory data, but they do not reflect absolute truth. The methodology of doubt helps to critically evaluate knowledge, but it cannot solve all problems. Realism allows us to consistently explain scientific and everyday experience by accepting the existence of the external world. Idealism and skepticism, on the other hand, criticize this approach and reveal the boundaries of knowledge. Modern philosophy seeks to synthesize these approaches. Thus, rather than denying the existence of matter, accepting it from the perspective of critical realism is the most acceptable approach. This serves the development of human thinking, the deepening of scientific knowledge, and the approach to truth.

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