

Realism holds that object is independent of the knowing mind. The existence of this world is in no way dependent upon its being known by a mind. **Idealism** on the other side , argues that there cannot be any world independent of mind and if a thing or quality is to exist it must be perceived or known by mind . The world can exist only as an idea in a mind.

Naive Realism holds the common-sense view that the objects of our knowledge exist independently of all knowledge. The existence of things and their qualities does not depend on their being known by any mind . Things with all their qualities are directly known by the mind just as they are in themselves.

Disadvantage: Naive realism is unable to explain the phenomena of dreams ,illusions, hallucinations, double visions etc. .

Representative Realism introduced by Locke, holds the view that mind never perceives anything external to itself. Mind can perceive only its own ideas. Ideas are representations or copies of the qualities of real things external to the mind .Mind directly knows only the world of ideas and not the world of real things. We can know things only indirectly through the ideas and things exist independently of our mind. Locke's theory can explain the illusions & hallucinations. The objects of erroneous and illusory perception are not real things of the world but only ideas of mind wrongly taken to be external things. Locke's theory is known as representative realism as it asserts that we do not know external things but only their representations or copies which are ideas in our minds. The external things possess only the primary qualities which are objective, but they produce in our minds the ideas of secondary qualities which are subjective.

Locke makes an important distinction between primary and secondary qualities of things. The primary qualities are extension ,impenetrability, divisibility and motion etc. They belong to the external physical bodies, being entirely independent of the mind that perceives them. Primary qualities belong to all bodies even to their smallest parts and under all circumstances.

The secondary qualities like colour , taste ,smell, temperature etc., do not belong to bodies as such , but only in relation to our sensibility. Secondary qualities not only change with varying circumstances but in certain circumstances vanish altogether. Secondary qualities are different to different individuals and do not really belong to bodies. They exist only in the consciousness of the subject as sensations and ideas.

Disadvantage: This theory claims that our minds directly know only the ideas but not the reality, and when our ideas agree with reality we have true knowledge . But if the mind does not know the reality directly ,then how can we know whether our ideas agree with it or not? Seeing this difficulty in Locke's theory, empiricist philosopher Berkeley eliminated the existence

of external independent reality and believed mind and its ideas to be the only realities . This is known as subjective idealism.

Berkeley abolishes the distinction between the primary and secondary qualities. The primary qualities ,like the secondary qualities vary with varying circumstances. The primary qualities are not objective but ideas of mind ,thus subjective. These two qualities are inseparable .The primary qualities must include the secondary qualities in order to be real and concrete. Thus all the qualities are to be treated as subjective ideas .

In **Subjective Idealism**, introduced by Berkeley, there can be no object without a subject to know it. To be or exist is to be perceived or known – *Esse est percipi*. The objects are only ideas of our minds. Bodies ,as cluster of qualities, are ideas and hence the existence of a thing consists in its being an idea of a mind or being perceived. To exist is to be an idea in some mind. The world and its qualities are nothing but ideas of our minds.

Now if this doctrine is right, a thing cannot exist unless perceived or known . Thus the continued existence of the object will be denied. But Berkeley suggests that to exist is to be an idea of mind and the mind need not necessarily be mine or other people, it may be the mind of God. When we are not perceiving the world , it is sustained by God's perception. If we are not prepared to accept such introduction of God, the world will be reduced to the mental states of an individual mind and solipsism will arise. Solipsism affirms that I and my ideas alone exist.

Disadvantage: Since the existence of God cannot be perceived through our senses and since God has no sense –organs, So Berkeley being an empiricist cannot introduce God's perception to explain the objectivity of the world .The object is different from the sensation or idea of it . Object does not depend upon mind for its existence , though it so depends in order to be known. An object first exists and then is known or perceived. If there is no object, previously existed, how can there be a perception of an object ? So it is to be said that perception depends upon existence i.e., to perceive is to be existed, and not the vice versa.

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