

Knowledge Construction Based on Buddhist Theory of Knowledge

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Philosophers of science could be categorized into two major groups based on the standpoint regarding how scientific knowledge is gained. One group claims that scientific knowledge (hypotheses, theories and laws) is discovered by outstanding scientists. This view has a long history and it is still being supported by many scientists.

The other group claims that scientific knowledge is constructed by gifted and creative scientists. This view has gained momentum fairly recently compared to the other view.

The view that scientific knowledge is discovered assumes that there exists a world independent of human beings. Scientists discover the secrets or laws governing nature. The history of this view goes back to the fifteenth (15th) Century B.C. with emergence of renaissance in Europe.

According to the other view, creative people construct hypotheses, theories or laws in science in order to understand phenomena or to solve problems faced by scientists. The resurgence of this views occurred in the 1960's through the works of the American philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn.

The purpose of the study is, (i) to present the recent developments in science and philosophy which supports the second view and (ii) to present some knowledge constructions based on Buddhist epistemology.

For example two Chilean Neurobiologists, Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela have constructed a theory of cognition based on Buddhist epistemology. It is named as "Santiago Theory of Cognition".

This study was carried out mainly through literature survey and a comparative and a critical study of recent developments in science and philosophy.

Alternative knowledge systems could be constructed based on different epistemologies and cultures.

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