

UNIT I: Self from Various Perspectives

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the different representations and conceptualizations of the self in the field of philosophy
- Analyze the development of oneself and identity
- Develop a theory of self

Essential Questions

How did ancient thinkers view a human being?

Who were those curious enough to study how human being perceive themselves?

LESSON 1 PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SELF

Philosophy

philos (love) + sophia (wisdom) = loving wisdom

A study of acquiring knowledge through rational thinking and inquiries that involves answering questions regarding the nature and existence of man and the world we live in

PHILOSOPHERS AND THEIR DEFINITION OF “SELF”

1. Socrates “I know that I don’t know”

- Developed a method of inquiry known as **Socratic Method**
- Man is dualistic in nature composed of body and soul
- “The unexamined life is not worth living”
- Man’s goal in life is to be happy by means of becoming virtuous

Duality of Self According to Socrates

Self has both BODY and SOUL

BODY

- Physical thing
- Temporary and not perfect
- Physically nice but changes overtime

SOUL

- Mental thing
- Permanent
- Separate from the body after death

2. Plato “Balance between body and soul”

- Wrote the Socratic Dialogue and known for his Theory of Forms
- Supported the dualistic nature of man but he added the three concepts of soul
- “Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in other.”
- Develop a method of inquiry known as Collection and Division Method

3 Parts of Soul according to Plato

APPETITIVE

- sensual
- motivated by wants and needs

RATIONAL

- reasoning
- love truth
- rule over the other parts

SPIRITED

- feeling
- understands the demand of passion, honor, and victory

3. St. Augustine “All knowledge leads to God”

- He adapted Plato’s view that the self is an immaterial (but rational) soul
- Known for his **Theory of Forms** in Christian perspective
- Man is capable of immortality through communion with God
- Reaching happiness through correct use of mind

3 Aspects of Self according to St. Augustine

- Able to be aware of itself
- It recognizes itself as a holistic one

- It is aware of its unity

4. **Rene Descartes “Cogito ergo sum: I think therefore I am”**

- First thinker to emphasize the use of reason to describe, predict, and understand natural phenomena based on observational and empirical evidences
- Proposed that “doubt” was a principal tool of disciplined inquiry
- Known for his method of inquiry called Hyperbolic/Metaphysical Doubt or Methodical Skepticism

His claims about self:

1. It is constant; it is not prone to change; and it is not affected by time
2. Only the immaterial soul remains the same throughout time
3. The immaterial soul is the source of our identity

Body and Soul according to Descartes

BODY

- It is material substance
- It can be doubted; The public can correct claims about the body
- It is made up of physical, quantifiable, divisible parts

SOUL

- It is conscious, thinking substance that is unaffected by time
- It is known only to itself
- It is not made up of parts

5. **John Locke “Human mind at birth is a tabula rasa, which means that knowledge is derived from experience.”**

- Believed that self consists of **memory**; that the person existing now is the same person yesterday because he/she remembers the

thoughts, experiences, or actions of the earlier self

- Man is born with knowing nothing and is capable to input learning
- Consciousness is the center of self

6. **David Hume “All knowledge is derived from human senses”**

- One of the main figureheads of EMPIRICISM movement.
- Identified with his theory known as Bundle Theory; which described the self as a bundle or collection of different perceptions.
- He believed that there is no logical justification of the existence of anything other than what your senses experienced

7. **Immanuel Kant “Reason is the Final authority of Morality”**

- He is the central figure of Modern Philosophy
- His view of the self is transcendental, which means the self is related to a spiritual or non-physical realm
- He proposed that it is knowledge that bridges the self and the material things together
- Known for his concept of APPERCEPTION.

2 Kinds of Consciousness of Self

- Consciousness of oneself and one’s psychological states in inner sense
- Consciousness of oneself and one’s state by performing acts of apperception

COMPONENTS OF SELF

INNER SELF

Includes man’s rational intellect and psychological state

OUTER SELF

Includes man’s senses and the physical world

Self Organizes Information in Three ways

- a. Raw perceptual input
- b. Recognizing the input
- c. Reproducing in the imagination

8. Sigmund Freud “Wish fulfillment is the road to the unconscious”

- Father of Psychoanalysis
- Man has different constructs of personality that interact with each other
- Developed the Psychoanalytic Theory which is based on the notion that individual gets motivated by unseen forces, controlled by the conscious and rational thought

3 Levels of Consciousness According To Freud

CONSCIOUS

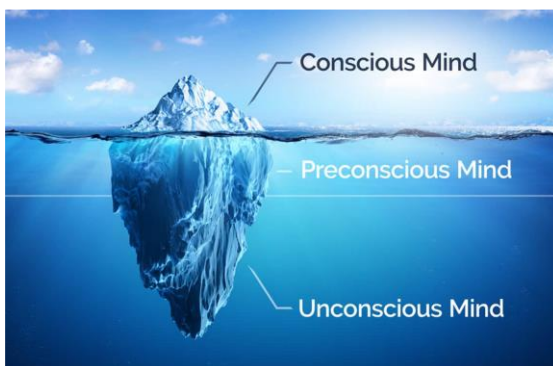
Deals with awareness of present perceptions, feelings, thoughts, memories, and fantasies at any particular moment

PRE-CONSCIOUS/ SUB-CONSCIOUS

Related to data that can readily be brought to consciousness

UNCONSCIOUS

Refers to data retained but not easily available to the individual’s conscious awareness or scrutiny



PSYCHE STRUCTURE

ID operates on the pleasure principle

EGO operates according to reality principle

SUPEREGO incorporates the values and morals of society

Systems of Superego

CONSCIENCE

If the ego gives in to the id’s demands, the superego may make the person feel bad through guilt

IDEAL SELF

It is an imaginary picture of how you ought to be. It represents career aspirations; how to treat other people; and how to behave as a member of society

9. Gilbert Ryle “I act therefore I am”

- He wrote the Concept of Mind
- Believed that there is no hidden entity or ghost called “soul” inside a machine called “body”
- He asserted that actions define one’s own concept and sense of self

10. Paul Churchland “The physical brain and not the imaginary mind gives us our sense of self”

- His philosophy stands on a materialistic view or the belief that nothing, but matter exists. In short, there is nothing beyond the sensory experience.
- Known for his idea called Eliminative Materialism
- He asserted that the sense of self originated from the brain itself

11. Maurice Merleau-Ponty “Physical body is an important part of the self”

- Emphasize the body as the primary site of knowing the world
- Developed that idea of self known as **Embodied Subjectivity**
- He asserted that the body acts what the mind perceives as a unified one