

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis is focused on David Hume's analysis of causality. The two major philosophical works about this topic are *A Treatise of Human Nature* and *Enquiries concerning Human Understanding*. The first chapter is about intellectual background which Hume came from when he is dealing with cause-effect problem. At that time there were two main epistemological theories: rationalism and empirism. Both will be discuss there.

The next chapter is about Hume's way of thinking about human understanding. This chapter is important for us beacuse there are many terms which will be useful for understanding causality. Crucial role plays The Theory of Ideas, according to each content of a mind has a source in experience. The first perceptions are called impresions and their copies are called ideas. Ideas are processed by memory and imagination.

There are two categories of contents of human understanding: relations of ideas and matters of facts. We will focus on matters of facts because they are based on causality. Hume as a empirist is searching for a source of idea of causality in our experience. He finds out that we cant find it in objects of our minds themselves, but is based on relations among them. These relations are: contiguity, constant conjunction, priority of time in the cause before the effect and necessary connexion. They will be examine in thirt chapter.

Hume is well-known for criticism of principles, which are taken as self-evident. One of them is „Whatever Begins to Exist Must Have a Cause of Existence.“ The author is coming with conclusion that something like that cant be prove with certainty. Argumentation behind it is in chapter three.

The next important question is why is our mind convinced that two separate events are based on causal-effect relation. Neither memory or reason themselves are capable of that. Only custom of seeing constant conjunction of objects can help us to figure it out.

The final chapter is about current trends in interpretations of idea of necessary connexion. I examine three different perspectives on this topis: the traditional interpretation, projectivism and sceptical realism. I hope this diploma thesis will help to understand one of the most famous theory of causality in history of Philosophy.