

← CSS Assignment 2-C

General words such as 'man' or 'cat' or 'triangle' are said to denote 'universals', concerning which, from the time of Plato to the present day, philosophers have never ceased to debate. Whether there are universals, and, if so, in what sense, is a metaphysical question, which need not be raised in connection with the use of language. The only point about universals that needs to be raised at this stage is that the correct use of general words is no evidence that a man can think about universals. It has often been supposed that, because we can use a word like 'man' correctly, we must be capable of a corresponding 'abstract idea' of man, but this is quite a mistake. Some reactions are appropriate to one man, some to another, but all have certain elements in common. If the word 'man' produces in us the reactions which are common but no others, we may be said to understand the word 'man'. In learning geometry, one acquires the habit of avoiding special interpretations of such a word as 'triangle'. We know that, when we have a proposition about triangles in general, we must not think specially of a right-angled triangle or any one kind of triangle. This is essentially the process of learning to associate with the word what is

essentially the process of learning to associate with the word what is associated with all triangles; when we have learnt this, we understand the word 'triangle'. Consequently, there is no need to suppose that we ever apprehend universals, although we use general words correctly.

Hitherto we have spoken of single words, and among these we have considered only those that can naturally be employed singly. A child uses single words of a certain kind before constructing sentences; but some words presuppose sentences. No one would use the word 'paternity' until after using such sentences as 'John is the father of James'; no one would use the word 'causality' until after using such sentences as 'the fire makes me warm'. Sentences introduce new considerations and are not quite so easily explained on behaviourist lines. Philosophy, however, imperatively demands an understanding of sentences, and we must therefore consider them.

Exercise 2

Q. Make a list of the following words and suggest suitable

Precise # 01

Title: Universals words and their comprehension in sentences

Philosophers debates and metaphysicals questions on universals words have not ended till today. In this context, the important question is that whether the man thinks the words as universals in their usage. This is mostly perceived in the wrong way and the man is unable to get the abstract ideas behind these words. General usage of universals words like, man, triangle and cat etc lack their specific definition in a sentence due to their preposition concept. If these words use correctly in general usage in sentences then these do not need to comprehend the universals. However, there ~~some~~ ^{some} are also single words which cannot be used until after the presupposed sentences. Therefore, philosophy focused on understanding sentences, so one must consider them.

precise = 126 words

original = 372