

Immanuel Kant's resolution of the Rationalism/Empiricism Debate

Unity of Consciousness and its innate rules/categories

The mind is structured in such a way that it categorizes all experiences of the world and molds these experiences into knowledge. The categories are:

Space - a structure of our mind that is responsible for our experiencing objects as having three dimensions.

Substance	Unity	Plurality
Possibility	Necessity	Space
Time	Cause and Effect	

For Kant, knowledge has two components that are unified into a single consciousness:

1. Our mind (the rational component)
2. Our senses (the empirical component)

Strengths and weaknesses of Kant's Unity of Consciousness.

Strength

It avoids Descartes subjectivity. The categories allow for objective judgements about reality because all persons have minds that are structured in the same manner; that is, all persons have the same categories.

It avoids Hume's Skepticism because the individual can be absolutely certain of how things will be experienced.

Weakness

One cannot know how things really are, only how they appear. Our minds are made in such a way that we have to experience the world in this way. It is possible that cause and effect, substance and time do not really exist. But if they don't, we will never be able to tell because we are prisoners of our own minds.