

Logic and cognition

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Cognition and knowledge should be distinguished: cognition is understood as a process of acquiring of information, knowledge is a product of cognition. Moreover, cognition has no normative connotations, contrary to knowledge, which is purely descriptive concept. Consequently, cognition and error are coherent, but the term “incorrect (false) knowledge” is frequently considered as empty.

My aim is to locate logic in the context of cognition. There are several issues related to this problem. I will address to two following questions. Firstly, if logic is understood as the only set of universally valid statements, we should explain how it arose in the human history. This is a challenge for empiricism as well as rationalism (nativism). Secondly, if logic does not distinguish any extralogical content (this is one of the metalogical accounts of universal validity), how to explain that logic plays any role in real cognitive processes?

I will argue for an empiricist answer as far as the matter concerns the genesis of logic. More specifically, evolutionary epistemology seems to be the only account consistent with empiricist. The answer to the second problem consists in regarding logic as a device of protecting information against its dispersion. The role of logic is similar to the role of an axiom of probability calculus which asserts that there is an event A for which $p(A) = 1$.