

Arguments for Dualism
and
Property Dualism
P.M. Churchland

Property Dualism

- “...the brain has special sort of properties possessed by no other kind of physical object. It is these special properties that are non physical...” (P.10)
- Having pain sensation, thinking, desiring, etc.

Epiphenomenon

- *Epi* (in Greek) – above
- certain level of complexity of brain process– the mind – emerges
- “mental phenomena are caused to occur by the various activities of the brain, *they do not have any causal effects in turn.*
(p.11)

Interaction between Mental and Physical

- Mental (desire, decisions and volition) - **action**
- For **epiphenomenalist** this relation is an **illusion**

Dilemma

- **Origin** of the behaviour
- Behaviour **controlling** features
- **Brian** (motor cortex of the cerebrum)
- **Vs**
- **Testimony of Introspection**
- **Desire, intention, and other mental phenomena**

Interactionist Property Dualism

- Irreducibility of the mental phenomena
- Fundamental properties of the physical
- (mass, length, duration)

Religious Considerations

- Committed to the notion of immortality of soul
- The cause of the universe and the purpose of the universe
- Man's place within the universe

Argument from Introspection

- Centre of our attention on the content of consciousness
- **What is being apprehended?**
- Neural Networks, Electrochemical activity, etc.
- Flux of thoughts, Sensations, desire, emotion, etc.

Argument from Irreducibility

- Human ability to mental phenomena
- Human as linguistic being (**ability to use language**)
- **Reason** – the power of mathematical reason
- Introspectable qualities of thoughts and sensations - **qualia**
- **Anticipate, predict the inexpressible experiences**

Argument from parapsychology

- **Telepathy** (mind reading)
- **Prerecognition** (Seeing the future)
- **Telekinesis** (thought control of material objects)
- **Clairvoyance** (knowledge of distant objects)
- These above phenomena are real and existing on super-physical nature

Overall general considerations

- Scientific credentials of the religions and their religious authority is questioned.
- **Rejection of geocentric view by Galileo**
 - Microorganisms, physicochemical properties of the things, evolution, etc.
- **Disease as punishment (visit by the devil)**
 - Battle against religious prejudices

Rationality of Religious Conviction

- Social forces as the primary determinants of people's belief
 - Christianity is centred around Europe and Americans
 - Hinduism in India
 - Islam in Africa and middle East
 - Buddhism in the Orient
- Professional philosophers and scientists keep themselves away from religious view

Introspection could be deeply suspected

- Does inner observation reveal things?
 - Sight, hearing, touch, etc. ...
 - Red surface of apple does not look like a matrix of molecules reflecting photons at certain critical wavelengths...
 - Electrochemical states in the neural network...
 - Introspection cannot penetrate into hidden details

Argument of Irreducibility challenged

- Reason is not central to human thinking
- Reason (mathematical reasoning) can be created
- Computational mechanism displays the general principles of mathematical reasoning.

Argument from language is dubious

- Artificial languages are simpler in structure in comparison to natural language
- Complexity in terms of degree
- Language use by the physical system

Regarding Intrinsic qualities of sensations

- **Active research** programmes and positive suggestions can help us understanding them.
- No **Rhetoric**
- **Explanation** is necessary

For parapsychology

- **Thinking as electromagnetic activity**
 - Electromagnetic **wave radiation** at the speed of light
- **Waves** have effects on 'radio transmitter/receiver)
 - Call it **telepathy**

Argument against Dualism

- Materialists rational methodology
 - Physical matter
 - Class of properties
- Opt for **simplicity**
- “Do not multiply entities beyond what is strictly necessary for explaining phenomena.”
 - William of Ockham

Availability of Explanatory devices

- Neuroscience
- fulfils the demands for simplicity
- Existing micro structure and causal relationship with the entire bodily organism
- Neurology
- (branch of medicine concerned with brain pathology)

About the Brain

- Trauma
- Recognition through neural devices
- Linguistic ability and learning
- Physical, chemical and electrical properties
- Physical laws

Philosophical Behaviourism

- Reaction against Dualism
- Philosophical behaviourism claims that any sentence about a mental state can be paraphrased, without loss of meaning, into a long and complex sentence about what observable behaviour *would* result if the person in question were in this, that, or the other observable circumstance. (p.23)

Influence of Logical Positivism

- Philosophical problems are the result of linguistic or conceptual confusion and are to be solved/ dissolved by careful analysis of the language in which the problems are expressed.
(p.23)

Ryle's Philosophical Analysis

- to understand the use of vocabulary / **language**
- Extraordinary capacity and **dispositions**
- For behaviourists, mind-body problem is a **pseudoproblem**

dispositions

- To be angry means to behave in a angry manner