Indian Philosophy

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Lecture - 22

Self Assessment Questions & Possible Answers

1. What is upamāna?

Ans.: According to Nyāya philosophy, Upamāna is a pramāna. It is derived from two words; Upa (similarity) and māna (cognition). In upamāna, the knowledge is obtained by comparing the similarity between two things. It is the source of our knowledge about the relation between a word and its denotation.

2. Write an example of 'dissimilarity' where Upamāna generates valid knowledge.

Ans.: In the case of dissimilarity, the objects denoted by a word are described in terms of their contrast or dissimilarity to some well-known objects of experience. For example: unlike tiger and lion, elephants have trunk.

3. What is analogy?

Ans.: In analogy, we infer one resemblance object from the other, unlike upamāna (comparison). In comparison, we argue as much from resemblance as from contrast and peculiarity.

4. Name those schools who argue Upamāna can be reduced to other pramānas.

Ans.: According to Buddhists, Upamāna can be reduced to perception with verbal testimonial knowledge. On the account of Sānkhya and Vaisesika, Upamaāna can be reduced to inferential knowledge.