

ERKENNTNISTHEORIE, METAPHYSIK UND ETHIK VON DESCARTES
BIS KANT

J. Locke, An Essay concerning Human Understanding

1 Die Motivation für den Essay

¹Were it fit to trouble thee with the history of this Essay, I should tell thee, that five or six friends meeting at my chamber, and discoursing on a subject very remote from this, found themselves quickly at a stand, by the difficulties that rose on every side. After we had awhile puzzled ourselves, without coming any nearer a resolution of those doubts which perplexed us, it came into my thoughts that we took a wrong course; and that before we set ourselves upon inquiries of that nature, it was necessary to examine our own abilities, and see what objects our understandings were, or were not, fitted to deal with. This I proposed to the company, who all readily assented; and thereupon it was agreed that this should be our first inquiry. [Epistle to the Reader]

2 Fragestellung

This, therefore, being my purpose – to inquire into the original, certainty, and extent of human knowledge, together with the grounds and degrees of belief, opinion, and assent [...] [I.1.2]

3 Methode

And I shall imagine I have not wholly misemployed myself in the thoughts I shall have on this occasion, if, in this historical, plain method, I can give any account of the ways whereby our understandings come to attain those notions of things we have [...] [I.1.2]

4 Lockes Ideenbegriff

But, before I proceed on to what I have thought on this subject, I must here in the entrance beg pardon of my reader for the frequent use of the word idea, which he will find in the following treatise. It being that term which, I think, serves best to stand for whatsoever is the object of the understanding when a man thinks, I have used it to express whatever is meant by phantasm, notion, species, or whatever it is which the mind can be employed about in thinking; and I could not avoid frequently using it. [I.1.8, Introduction]

¹Nach http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/locke/locke1/Essay_contents.html.

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Locke, An Essay concerning Human Understanding (Leitfragen zum
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Textgrundlage: J. Locke, Über den menschlichen Verstand, Neuausgabe der Übersetzung von C. Winckler, Hamburg 1962, zwei Bände. Band 2, S. 167 – 171.

1. Wie bestimmt Locke den Begriff des Wissens (der Erkenntnis)? Was fällt Ihnen an dieser Bestimmung auf?
2. Erklären Sie die beiden Klassifikationen von Wissen, die Locke vornimmt. Geben Sie dabei jeweils Beispiele an.

Bitte beantworten Sie die Fragen 1 – 2.

Literaturverzeichnis

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