

Kant Seminar

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CRITICAL TERMS AND CONTRASTS (A/B) IN KANT

I. OUTER/INNER

A. WHAT IS OUTSIDE THE MIND = 'TRANSCENDENT'

The Thing in itself (= Ding an sich): What is not for consciousness, thus unknowable as in itself (albeit thinkable, within the mind, as Noumenon = what is noumenal); knowable only as it appears (as Phenomenon, Appearance); The transcendent object (= Objekt)

B. WHAT IS IN THE MIND

Representation (= Vorstellung): The general term for any elementary content of (unit in) consciousness (the mind); a Lockean 'idea'

II. LOGICAL/METAPHYSICAL

A. THE LOGICAL DISTINCTION (*Logik*, A 45): **SENSIBILITY (as faculty of Intuitions)/ UNDERSTANDING (as faculty of Concepts)**

Intuition (= Anschauung): A representation as representable but (at the level of synthesis in question) unrepresented; may contain a manifold and be juxtaposed synchronically (spatial intuition) or diachronically (temporal intuition)

Concept (= Begriff): A representation as representing (a) representation(s); a function (operation) of unity (of unification or synthesis)

B. THE METAPHYSICAL DISTINCTION (*Logik*, A 45): **SENSIBILITY (as faculty of receptivity)/ UNDERSTANDING (as faculty of spontaneity)**

Receptivity (= Rezeptivität): Mental finitude, dependency, the faculty for receiving representations from outside the mind, the human ('our', human) condition

Spontaneity (= Spontaneität): Mental activity, autonomy, the faculty for unifying representations within the mind

Transcendental: (a) "I entitle *transcendental* all knowledge which is occupied not so much with objects as with the mode of our knowledge of objects in so far as this mode of knowledge is to be possible *a priori*" (A 11–12 = B 25); (b) Knowledge "by which we [finite humans] know that—and how—certain representations (intuitions or concepts) can be employed or are possible merely *a priori*." (B 80 = A 56). The contrast term is 'Transcendent': That which is beyond the sphere of mind.

Judgment (= Urteil): The "representation of a representation" of an object (Gegenstand) (B 93 = A 68)

Object (= Objekt): “that in the concept of which the manifold of a given intuition is *united*” (B 137)

object (= Gegenstand): that which is present to (for) consciousness

Imagination (= Einbildungskraft): “the faculty of representing in intuition an object (Gegenstand) that is *not in itself present*” (B 151)

a. **Reproductive Imagination**: Merely empirical, a unity without transcendental validation

b. **Productive Imagination**: A faculty of the understanding, governed by the *a priori* rules of synthesis (combination)

Combination (= Verbindung): Synthesis (B 201–202n)

a. **Composition** (= Zusammensetzung): Mathematical Combination: of the homogeneous

1. **Aggregation**: Synthesis of extensive quantities (see “Axioms of Intuition”)

2. **Coalition**: Synthesis of intensive quantities (see “Anticipations of Perception”)

b. **Connection** (= Verknüpfung): Dynamical Combination: of the phenomenally heterogeneous (factors differentiable by involving an element of ‘Being’ (Sein), ‘Existence’ (= Dasein), or ‘the Real’ (das Reale))

1. **Physical Connection**: Synthesis of appearances with one another (see “Analogies of Experience”)

2. **Metaphysical Connection**: Synthesis of appearances in the *a priori* faculty of knowledge (see “Postulates of Empirical Thought”)