



## Implications of the Theory of Coherence, Correspondence and Pragmatism of Truth for Education

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### ABSTRACT

Education plays a central role in shaping individuals and society. One important aspect in the formation of character and knowledge is truth. Truth is a complex concept and gives rise to various philosophical perspectives, including coherence, correspondence, and pragmatism. Recent research in the field of epistemology and philosophy of education highlights the implications of truth based on the three perspectives on the education system. Truth itself can be obtained through sensory knowledge, intellectual knowledge, intuitive knowledge. What is true for one person may not be true for another person. Therefore, a measure or criterion of truth is needed. Scientific truth does not come suddenly, scientific truth will emerge after being processed using scientific mechanisms as well. So scientific truth is a truth whose validity has been tested, both logically and empirically, so that it has a strong basis to be considered true, as long as it is not invalidated by other scientific truths that are more reliable. Based on the explanation above, the research aims to investigate how the concept of truth, when understood through the lenses of coherence, correspondence, and pragmatism, can shape and influence the education system. By understanding the implications of truth in the educational context, we can improve the effectiveness of teaching, curriculum and evaluation, and shape humans into critical and empowered individuals. The method used in this writing is a literature study, which is then tested to obtain credible findings. then this research is presented in narrative - descriptive form. Collecting data by using accredited books and journals as reading material. Conclusion Truth is something that is correct or in accordance with existing data facts. The implications of correspondence, coherence, and pragmatics theories in educational contexts can influence various aspects of student learning, communication, and understanding.

*Coherence Theory, Correspondence Theory, Pragmatic Theory, Implications For Education*

### ARTICLE INFO

*Article history:*

Received

25 Oktober 2023

Revised

25 November 2023

Accepted

20 December 2023

**Key Word**

**How to cite**

**Doi**

<http://pusdikra-publishing.com/index.php/jsr>

[10.51178/jsr.v4i3.1662](https://doi.org/10.51178/jsr.v4i3.1662)



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## INTRODUCTION

Education plays a central role in shaping individuals and society. One important aspect in the formation of character and knowledge is truth. Truth is a complex concept and gives rise to various philosophical perspectives, including coherence, correspondence, and pragmatism. Recent research in the fields of epistemology and philosophy of education highlights the implications of truth based on these three perspectives for the education system.

The potential of the human mind which continues to search for truth. A truth they can accept scientifically and logistically. However, this assessment of truth is still confused and there are still many questions about what truth means and how the theories and criteria of truth are used. Truth is a statement without hesitation. For example, when we admit the truth of a proposition that the earth moves around the sun, our basis is nothing other than whether or not the proposition corresponds to reality. (Jujun S. Suriasumantri, 2010). Meanwhile, according to Idzam Fautanu's Truth, it is 1). The circumstances (things and so on) are true (match the actual thing or situation. For example, I still doubt the truth of this news, we must have the courage to defend truth and justice. 2). Something that is true (really exists, this really is the case, and so on). For example, the truths taught by religion. 3). Honesty, straightness of heart, for example, no one will sanction the goodness and truth of your heart.

Truth itself can be obtained through sensory knowledge, intellectual knowledge, intuitive knowledge, and trusted knowledge or authoritative knowledge. What is true for one person may not be true for another person. Therefore, a measure or criterion of truth is needed. The criteria for truth can be obtained through thinking. Because thinking can be used as a tool to gain knowledge. Humans always seek the truth, if humans understand and comprehend the truth, their basic nature is motivated to implement that truth. On the other hand, knowledge and understanding of the truth, without implementing the conflict of truth, humans will experience inner conflict, psychological conflict (Latif, 2004: 1010). Because in human life, everything that is done must be accompanied by the truth in the life that one lives, and humans will not get bored of looking for reality in their life which is always shown by the truth.

Scientific truth means knowledge that is clear and definitely true according to scientific norms. Scientific truth tends to be objective, it contains a number of knowledge from different points of view, but they are mutually compatible (A. Susanto, 2013). Scientific truth does not come suddenly, or suddenly, scientific truth will emerge after being processed using scientific mechanisms as well. So scientific truth is a truth whose validity has been tested, both logically and empirically, so that it has a strong basis to be considered true, as long as it is not invalidated by other scientific truths that are more reliable.

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to investigate how the concept of truth, when understood through the lenses of coherence, correspondence, and pragmatism, can shape and influence the education system. By understanding the implications of truth in the educational context, we can improve the effectiveness of teaching, curriculum and evaluation, and shape humans into critical and empowered individuals.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research the author utilized a qualitative research model. The technique used to collect data is to use accredited books and journals as reading material. The method used in this writing is a literature study, which is then tested to obtain credible findings. then this research is presented in narrative-descriptive form.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Many experts argue about the theory of truth. The theory of scientific truth according to Michael Williams. According to him, there are five theories of truth, namely 1) coherence truth, 2) correspondence truth, 3) pragmatic truth (Surajiyo, 2010).

### **Truth of Coherence Theory (Coherence Theory of Truth)**

This coherence theory of truth is also commonly called the consistency theory. The meaning of the coherence theory of truth is a theory of truth that bases a truth on the conformity of a statement with other statements that have previously been known, accepted and recognized as true. In simple terms, this theory is that a statement is considered true if it is coherent or consistent with previous statements that are considered true. (Sonny Keraf, 2001).

According to this theory, one decision and another decision are interconnected and explain each other. Hence the formula was born: Truth is a systematic coherence. Truth is consistency and suitability. The originators were Plato and Aristotle. This theory argues that truth is the correspondence between a statement and other statements that are previously known, accepted and recognized as true. A proposition is true if the proposition is related (coherent) to other true propositions or the statement is coherent or consistent with previous statements which are considered true (Jujun Sumantri, 1993). Thus, a decision is considered correct if it is witnessed (justified) by other previous decisions which are known, accepted and recognized as correct. Because of its nature, this theory recognizes levels of truth. For example, all humans need oxygen, Fulan is a human, so Fulan needs oxygen.

Coherent theory uses deductive logic, meaning the method used in thinking goes from general to specific things. For example, All mammals are warm-blooded animals. Cats are mammals, therefore, cats are warm-blooded animals.

Another example in mathematics is the axioms in Euclidean geometry, one of the most common branches of geometry. Some axioms in Euclidean geometry involve properties of space and lines, such as: "If two parallel lines are cut by a third line, then the sum of the angles on one common side is less than two right angles." Using these axioms, we can prove theorems, such as the Pythagorean Theorem, which states that in a right triangle, the square of the length of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the lengths of the other sides. However, it is important to note that the coherence theory of truth is not the only approach in epistemology. There are also other approaches such as correspondence truth which connects the truth of a proposition with the state of facts in the external world.

### **Correspondence Theory of Truth (Correspondence Theory of Truth)**

Correspondence theory of truth is a theory that holds that statements are true if they correspond to facts. Truth or the state of truth is when there is a match between the intended meaning of a statement or opinion and the object aimed at by the statement (Surajiyo, 2010). The correspondence theory of truth has been a significant debate in the history of philosophy and remains the basis for some contemporary epistemological thinking. This thinking is often associated with philosophers such as Alfred North Whitehead, Bertrand Russell, and especially with Aristotle's early works on truth. Epistemological realism holds the view that there is an independent (independent) reality, which is independent of thought; and we cannot change it if we experience it or understand it. That is why epistemological realism is sometimes called objectivism. Meanwhile, epistemological idealism holds that every action ends in an idea, which is a subjective event (Proverbs Bakhtiar, 2012)

According to this correspondence theory, a statement is considered true if what it states corresponds to the facts in the real world. In other words, there is a correspondence or suitability between statements and reality. Where the correspondence theory of truth emphasizes the objectivity of truth. This means that the truth of a statement does not depend on individual views or interpretations, but depends on facts that exist outside one's mind. A correct statement is one that is able to reflect or represent the state of the world correctly. For example, the Statement: "The sun rises in the east." According to the correspondence theory of truth, this statement is considered true because it can be verified with facts or circumstances in the real world. The sun does rise in the east, and one can observe and confirm this empirically. Conversely, if there is a statement such as: Statement: "The moon is made of cheese." This statement, according to the correspondence theory of truth, is considered false because it does not correspond to facts or circumstances in the real world. It can be empirically proven that the moon is not made of cheese.

The difference between this theory and coherence theory is that it emphasizes the internal consistency of a belief system, whereas correspondence theory emphasizes the

relationship between statements and reality outside the system. Some philosophers combine elements of these two theories to form a more comprehensive view of truth. In this case, a statement is considered true if it is not only coherent with other beliefs in a system, but also corresponds to testable reality. Another example, someone made a statement that in the Unesa pool there were sharks that were still alive. According to correspondence theory, to determine whether the statement is true or not, we have to wait for the fact whether there are live or dead sharks in the pool. Meanwhile, according to coherence theory, without waiting for the facts, we can determine that the person's statement is not true because it contradicts the pre-existing axiom that sharks are a type of saltwater (marine) fish. It is not logical that saltwater fish can live in Unesa pond water, which is a freshwater pond.

### **Pragmatic Theory of Truth (The Pramagtic theory of truth)**

The pioneer of this theory was Charles S. Pierce which was further developed by William James and John Dewey. According to James, what is true is what is concrete, what is individual, and what is specific. Meanwhile, according to Dewey, pragmatic truth is truth that has practical use. (Noeng Muhadjir, 1998). Pragmatism is a philosophical school that was born in the United States at the end of the 19th century, which emphasizes the importance of reason (ratio) as a means of solving problems in human life, both theoretical and practical problems. The early pragmatist figure was Charles Sander Pierce (1834-1914) who was also known as a semiotic figure, William James 1842-1910 and John Dewey 1859-1952 (Ahyar Yusuf Lubis, 2014).

According to this theory, the truth of a statement can be measured based on the practical consequences that arise from accepting the statement. If a statement has merit or is useful in practice, then the statement can be considered true. The process of searching for truth involves empirical tests and investigations. Charles Sanders Peirce highlighted the importance of the scientific method and systematic investigation in determining the truth of a statement.

Truth in pragmatics is seen as an instrument for action or success in achieving goals. Statements that are able to guide effective action or solve problems are considered true. Where Truth is context-sensitive. This means that a statement may be true in a certain context or situation, but not true in a different context or situation. Understanding pragmatic truth is a continuous process. Through inquiry and experience, our understanding of truth can develop and change over time.

This pragmatic theory of truth emphasizes utilitarian and contextual aspects in determining truth, and has made significant contributions to philosophy and epistemological thought. Although it has received a number of criticisms, especially from a more objective point of view towards truth, this theory remains one of the main concepts in philosophical thought. An example of a pragmatic theory of truth is that if someone believes that all religions teach the same moral values and respect diversity,

then according to pragmatic theory, the truth of this statement can be assessed based on its positive impact on tolerance and harmony between religious believers in society. Another example is that a teacher who teaches the theory of evolution as a basis for science lessons may argue that the theory helps students understand and explain natural phenomena. According to pragmatic theory, the truth of the theory of evolution can be assessed based on students' ability to understand and apply scientific principles in everyday life.

It is important to remember that this theory is not the only view of truth, and there are various other views, such as correspondence and cohesion. The Pragmatic Theory of Truth places special emphasis on practical and experiential aspects in assessing the truth of a statement or belief.

### **Theory of Truth Implications for Education**

Correspondence theory of truth is a theory of truth in philosophy which states that a statement is considered true if the statement is in accordance with or corresponds to facts or circumstances in the real world. The implications of the correspondence theory of truth for education can involve several aspects: a). Accuracy of information: Education should aim to convey information that is accurate and based on facts. Teachers and learning materials must be managed in such a way that students can understand and obtain correct knowledge. b). Emphasis on Facts and Reality: Curriculum and teaching methods should emphasize developing students' understanding of facts and reality. This can involve presenting learning materials that describe the world correctly and provide a solid foundation for understanding concepts. c). Critical Thinking: Students need to be empowered to develop their own critical thinking skills. It involves the ability to judge the truth of a statement based on evidence and correlation with reality. d) Development of Research Skills: Teachers need to teach students research skills so that they can search for and collect the right information. This also includes developing the ability to sort reliable information from less reliable sources. e) Educational Ethics: Education must reflect the ethics of truth and integrity. Students must be taught values such as honesty, responsibility, and integrity in seeking and conveying information. f) Fact-Based Evaluation: Evaluation systems in education should be designed to measure students' understanding of facts and their ability to present information correctly. g). Use of Technology: The use of technology in education must support access to accurate information and ensure that digital resources used in learning comply with correct correspondence. By applying these principles, education can serve as a foundation for the development of an accurate and reflective understanding of the world, as well as help students develop the critical thinking skills essential in assessing the veracity of information.

Coherent truth is an approach in epistemology (a branch of philosophy that questions the nature, origin and limits of knowledge) which emphasizes the importance

of consistency or harmony of a belief with other beliefs held by a person. In this context, "truth" is not something that can be measured empirically, but rather is the internal consistency between held beliefs. The implications of the coherence theory of truth for education can include several aspects: a). Development of Critical Thinking: Education can teach students to develop critical and analytical thinking towards the information received and students are taught to consider the logical consistency of their beliefs and ideas. b). Holistic Learning: Teachers can integrate learning materials to make them more coherent and connected to each other and cross-subject teaching can help students see the connections between various concepts and topics. c). Evaluation of Argument Consistency: Education can teach evaluation skills, including the ability to assess the consistency of arguments and information provided and students are taught to identify contradictions or inconsistencies in reasoning. d). Ethics and Moral Development: A focus on consistency of beliefs can create a foundation for the development of solid ethical and moral values and character education can be designed to promote harmony between the values an individual holds. e). Cognitive Framework Building: Education can help students build a consistent and structured cognitive framework and students are taught to identify relationships between concepts and organize their knowledge logically. f). Development of Systemic Thinking Abilities: Teachers can facilitate the development of systemic thinking skills, where students can see the big picture and complex relationships between parts of a system.

This pragmatic theory emphasizes that the truth of an idea or concept can be measured through the practical implications or consequences that arise from the application of the idea or concept. The following are the implications of the pragmatic theory of truth for education: a). Orientation to Experience and Practice: Education based on the pragmatic theory of truth emphasizes the importance of direct experience and practice in learning. Learning activities that are related to daily life and have practical relevance are prioritized. b). Student-Centered Learning: Teachers and students work together to formulate problems and find practical solutions. Learning is not limited to the transfer of knowledge from teacher to student, but involves active participation of students in designing and implementing solutions. c). Emphasis on Active Learning: Pragmatic education emphasizes active learning, where students engage in experimental activities, observation, and reflection. It helps students to understand concepts in a deeper way through hands-on experience. d). Performance-Based Assessment: Assessment is not only based on theoretical mastery of concepts, but also on students' ability to apply knowledge in real-life contexts. Practical projects, presentations and performance-based assignments can be an integral part of the assessment. e) Life Skills Development: The focus of pragmatic education is on developing skills that can be applied in everyday life. This includes critical thinking skills, problem-solving, effective communication, and other skills that are relevant in a

practical context. f) Flexibility in Curriculum: The curriculum is designed taking into account changes in society and practical needs of students. Pragmatic education provides space for adjustments to developments and demands of the times. g). Collaboration and Social Interaction: Learning is supported by social interaction and collaboration between students. Group projects and collaboration provide a means to build social skills, leadership, and collaboration abilities. h). Critical Development of Knowledge: Students are encouraged to develop a critical attitude towards the knowledge they receive. They are invited to evaluate ideas and concepts based on their practical implications and identify their impact in everyday life. Education based on the pragmatic theory of truth aims to create individuals who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also able to face real world challenges with practical skills acquired through direct experience and contextual reflection.

## **CONCLUSION**

Truth is something that is correct or in accordance with the facts based on existing data. The theory of truth is correspondence, coherence, pragmatism and its implications for education. The correspondence theory of truth states that a statement is considered true if the statement corresponds or matches reality or facts in the real world. The implications for education aim to provide students with an accurate understanding of reality. Teachers must provide accurate information and promote understanding that corresponds to reality. Learning must be based on facts and verifiable information. Coherence Theory of Truth is a theory that focuses on the relationship between ideas and the internal consistency of a system of beliefs or statements. A statement is considered true if it is in line with and consistent with other beliefs or statements in the system. The implications for education should be to promote integration and consistency in students' thinking. Students must be taught to structure their beliefs and knowledge consistently. Education must build a strong conceptual foundation for students. Pragmatic Theory of Truth, this theory emphasizes the relevance and usefulness of a belief or statement in the context of everyday life. Something is considered true if it has a positive impact or is useful in practice. The implications for education are to prepare students to apply their knowledge in real life situations. Learning should focus on practical skills and application of concepts in everyday situations.

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