PHL 203 Theories of Reality

The Mind-Body Problem

The Mind-Body Problem

Ontology

- Idealism
- Materialism
- Dualism

If the mind and body are the same, why do they seem different?

If different, how do they interact?

Dualist Answers

Cartesian Interactionism

- Mind and brain interface in pineal gland
- Interaction mysterious like gravity
- We know THAT it happens but not HOW
- We know mind & body are distinct because they are conceptually different

Dualist Answers

- Epiphenomenalism
- Parallelism/Occasionalism

Eliminative or Reductive vs. Simple Materialism

A theory about

- Mentalistic language
- Folk psychology
- How we talk about things
- Is talk about thoughts, beliefs and intentions "unscientific" or "misleading?"
- Reductive materialists suggest restricting ourselves to precise, quantifiable terms and observations

Materialist Answers

Logical Behaviorism

- Gilbert Ryle
- Ghost in the machine criticism
- Descartes says that it's NOT like a pilot and his ship, more intimate and mysterious
- Category Mistakes
- The University Example
- The Baseball Game Example

Materialist Answers

Logical Behaviorism

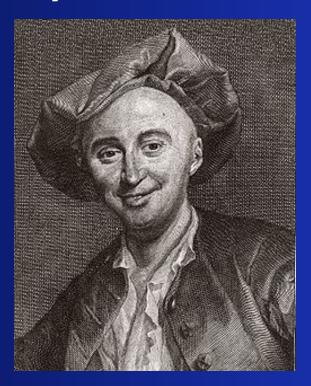
- Mentalistic language refers to dispositions to behave in various ways under particular circumstances
- Al is angry =
- Al is behaving angrily (red in the face, yelling, pounding his fist on the desk)
- Objection: Confusing mental states with evidence for them in others

Materialist Answers

The Mind-Brain Identity Theory

Julien Offray La Mettrie, Man: A

Machine



Arguments Against Dualism

- 1. Vitalism analogy
- 2. Brain injuries cause mind injuries
- 3. Sophistication of nervous system correlated with sophistication of consciousness
- 4. Restoring dead bodies to life restores consciousness why does the soul conveniently return?