

*“To what extent do the concepts that we use shape the conclusions that we reach?”*

A concept is an abstract idea, formed from generalization or experience or by the application of logics and reasoning, to derive a conclusion is to understand and analyze a process and reach an end result.

Across cultures a relationship between concepts and conclusions has been established, concepts and conclusions are aspects that can be generated from assessing our shared knowledge and personal knowledge.

The observations and perceptions we form become our mental representations which help us create our conclusions, explicitly a person's experiences help him form the concepts and conclusions he or she follows and these can be influenced or evaluated on the basis of the individual's culture and environment.

In many areas of knowledge such as science and mathematics, conclusions are stated to be dependent on the concepts. This relationship further makes them interdependent but it is arguable acknowledging our past discoveries and influence of our culture.

Concepts are derived using ways of knowing such as logics, emotions and reasoning. Since more than often we as humans want an explanation to everything that happens, we begin to evaluate and establish a relationship between an occurrence and the reason for its happening. We use concepts to understand daily activities and the smallest things in life. Therefore concepts we use shape the conclusions that we reach to a very large extent.

For example, a visually complex and emotive subject like art apart from using colors to describe visual characteristics of objects, also uses colors and patterns to convey emotions without the use of words. Various colors are used to symbolize different emotions. Some colors are used to signify positive emotions like white for peace, yellow for happiness. While others are used for negative emotions like black for darkness and depression, blood red for anger. This color-emotion association concept is used by every artist to convey some sort of message. Moreover, the style and colors used by the artist is associated with his or her personality. Jack Pollock was an influential American painter, well known for his style of drip painting, where paint is dripped or poured onto a canvas. During his lifetime, Pollock was considered reclusive and volatile, and he struggled with alcoholism for most of his life, so it is easy to relate his personality to his art technique. One can also see these learned concepts in child development, where children are taught basic concepts in math like any figure with three sides is concluded to be a triangle.

However, such observations raise the question “Are existing concepts and prior knowledge the only bases that help us understand a situation and reach a conclusion?”. In my opinion, discoveries do not always need prior knowledge and new concepts can always be formed. For