

Discussion:

What Hume means by his view that any idea in our mind must first come from our Impressions is that to get an idea of something we must first experience it. The way we experience things to form ideas is through our senses. Our senses create an impression, and we use that impression by remembering it with our mind, that creates an idea. Hume believed that the mind could think or imagine things, and that this power is unrestrained, but he believed that it was impossible for the mind to make up or imagine things that the mind has never seen, felt, heard, taste, etc. before. He believed that it would be impossible to create an idea without experiencing through senses first because no impression was made. This is where Hume crafted that ideas come from our senses. The major difference between Ideas and Impressions is the difference in their degree of liveliness, sharpness, and clarity. One way this is done is by compounding ideas. If you have an impression pink and an impression of tree you can put these two things together and get an idea of a pink tree, even if you have never seen one. If you never had the impression or pink and impression of tree you could not form an idea of a pink tree.

Hume believed that reasoning of cause and effect is based on experience. He also believes that nature conceals the power of objects in terms of how they really operate, behave, or bring about certain effects. This means that Hume thinks that we don't see the actual power an object may have we only see the effect that follows the object. The only reason for this is that we don't know what an object is capable of or its power without experience this power first which would be the effect. For example, we don't know that a rose thorn is sharp unless we touch it and experience it poke us. The object (thorn) receives its power from the effect (poke). At the end of the cause and effect the mind can form a conclusion and know that from now on to touch a thorn will end in a poke, which now the mind can form an idea from. Hume is correct about the world must be observed before cause and effect can be learned about an object.

I have to say that I agree with Hume on his beliefs that the mind manufacture the idea of power in cause and effect in a similar way that the mind makes up complex ideas. The mind in other words can only create ideas from experiences that we have already had. If I had experienced eating something hot and I know what it will look and feel like if I do eat something hot I probably wouldn't do it again if I didn't like it. This to me would be what Hume describes as the principle of induction, which he states that we can draw an inference about the future based on our past experience. I do have to agree with Hume that our minds do try and find connections between objects and try to bring reason as to why these things happen.