

Identifying Isolates

The source text of Identifying Isolates

From Dharmakirti's *Commentary on [Dignaga's] "Compendium on Valid Cognition"*:

Because all things naturally abide in their own entities,
They have a dependence on isolation from other similar things.

Isolate

The meaning (not the definition) of isolate of x: Opposite from not being one with x

The meaning (not the definition) of isolate of functioning thing: Opposite from not being one with functioning thing

1. The isolate of *functioning thing* is called "isolate" because it is just functioning thing itself, in isolation from all else – its instances, its illustrations, the phenomena equivalent with it, and every functioning thing that is not exactly the same as *functioning thing* in both name and meaning. Thus, *functioning thing* alone, the singular collective entity, is the isolate of *functioning thing* because it alone is opposite from not being one with *functioning thing*. No other phenomenon nor any non-existent is opposite from not being one with *functioning thing*, except *functioning thing* itself.
2. In the same way, for every phenomenon, it alone – and nothing else – is its isolate, for only it is one with itself.

The four phenomena coextensive with the isolate of functioning thing

1. one with *functioning thing*
2. *functioning thing* which is one with *functioning thing*
3. the definiendum of that which is able to perform a function
4. the triply qualified imputed existent of that which is able to perform a function

Of these four, one is impermanent (functioning thing which is one with functioning thing) and three are permanent.

The three criteria for establishing a phenomenon as coextensive with the isolate of functioning thing

1. It is different from the isolate of *functioning thing*
2. If it is it, it is necessarily the isolate of *functioning thing*
3. If it is the isolate of *functioning thing*, it is necessarily it

For example, in debate format:

- C. Regarding the subject, one with *functioning thing*: it is coextensive with the isolate of *functioning thing* because.....
- D. Because it fulfils the three requirements for being coextensive with the isolate of functioning thing.
- C. Posit the three requirements
- D. (1) It is different from the isolate of *functioning thing*, (2) if it is it, it is necessarily the isolate of *functioning thing* and (3) if it is the isolate of *functioning thing*, it is necessarily it.

The four phenomena coextensive with the isolate of able to perform a function

1. one with that which is able to perform a function
2. that which is able to perform a function which is one with that which is able to perform a function
3. the definition of functioning thing
4. the triply qualified substantial existent of functioning thing

Of these four, one is impermanent and three are permanent.

Points between

A. Coextensive with the isolate of functioning thing & B. Definiendum 4 points

Both: definiendum of able to perform a function
A not B: triply qualified imputed existent of able to perform a function
B not A: valid cognizer
Neither: Being imputed in dependence on any of its own five aggregates

A. Coextensive with the isolate of able to perform a function & B. definition 4 points

Both: triply qualified substantial existent of functioning thing
A not B: able to perform a function which is one with able to perform a function
B not A: mere absence of obstruction and contact
Neither: an ocean wave

A. Coextensive with the isolate of pillar & B. Permanent 4 points

Both: one with pillar
A not B: pillar which is one with pillar
B not A: non-pot
Neither: the impermanence of pillar

A. Coextensive with the isolate of functioning thing & B. Being one of the four phenomena coextensive with the isolate of functioning thing Contradictory

A. It is one & B. One is it 4 points

A. One with it is it & B. Different from it is it 4 points

A. Isolate of pot & B. Opposite from non-pot 3 points

A. Triply qualified substantial existent of consciousness & B. Coextensive with the isolate of clear and knowing Contradictory

A. Suitable as the object of awareness of which being it is not possible & B. Object of knowledge of which being it is not possible 3 points

Both: the two, a pot and a pillar

Which pervades which? If it is an object of knowledge of which being it is not possible, it is necessarily suitable as an object of awareness of which being it/them is not possible. If it is suitable as the object of awareness of which being it/them is not possible, it is not necessarily an object of knowledge of which being it is not possible.

A not B: the heat of boiling lava

B not A: -

Neither: a triangular circle

A. Suitable as the object of awareness of which being it is possible & B. Object of knowledge of which being it is not possible 3 points