

**EPISTEMIC THINKING AND INFORMATION
RELIABILITY IN THE INTERNET ENVIRONMENT
ISSUE**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the reliability of information disseminated via the internet in the modern digital environment and the role of epistemic thinking in its evaluation. As a result of the increasing speed and volume of information flow on the Internet, the problem of the widespread dissemination of false or incorrect information is emerging. This work highlights the concept of epistemic thinking, its significance in the critical evaluation of information, and its role in enhancing an individual's media literacy. It also examines the key approaches necessary to ensure information reliability.

Introduction

In modern society, the internet has penetrated almost all spheres of human life and has drastically accelerated the process of information exchange. Today, people rely on the Internet in the process of acquiring knowledge, keeping up with news, and even making decisions. However, along with this process, problems related to the reliability of information are also intensifying. Along with any useful information, the widespread dissemination of incorrect, misleading, or false information is causing serious problems for society. Under these conditions, epistemic thinking—that is, the ability to analyze the source of knowledge, its reliability, and validity—acquires particular importance. Epistemic thinking transforms a person from an ordinary information consumer into a critically thinking individual.

The concept of epistemic thinking and its essence

Epistemic thinking is a concept related to the theory of knowledge (epistemology) in philosophy, which expresses a person's attitude to the questions "what is knowledge?" "what kind of knowledge is reliable?" and "how is knowledge achieved?" A person with such thinking analyzes, verifies the source, and compares any information with other evidence before accepting it. The main element of epistemic thinking is critical thinking. Critical thinking, on the other hand, develops a person's ability to draw independent conclusions, logically analyze, and approach information with skepticism.

Information flows and problems in the Internet environment.

The biggest advantage of the Internet is the ability to access information quickly and easily. However, it is precisely this feature that causes the uncontrolled dissemination of information. Since anyone can post their opinion on social media, blogs, and various platforms,

not all of them are based on scientific or reliable sources. Fake news, manipulative advertising, and misinformation affect people's thinking, decisions, and even social stability in society. For example, misinformation about health, politics, or economics can cause serious problems.

The role of epistemic thinking in information reliability

Epistemic thinking is the most important tool for sorting and evaluating information in the internet environment. It prevents a person from simply receiving information and encourages them to verify it. A person with such a mindset asks the following questions:

- Where did this information come from?
- Who is its author?
- What do other authoritative sources say about this?
- Is this information logically correct?

Through this, a person is protected from the influence of incorrect information and has an independent opinion.

Media literacy and modern society

Media literacy plays an important role in the development of epistemic thinking. Media literacy develops a person's skills in working with information, its analysis, and evaluation. This is especially important for young people, as they are the most used segment of the internet. By developing media literacy and critical thinking in the education system, it is possible to form a healthy information culture in society. This reduces the impact of false information.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the speed and volume of information flow in the Internet environment, while bringing a person closer to knowledge, also exposes them to the influence of incorrect and misleading information. Under these conditions, epistemic thinking appears as one of the most important means of defense. Epistemic thinking transforms a person not only into a receiver of information but also into a person who analyzes, verifies, and draws well-founded conclusions. This enhances an individual's culture of thinking, strengthens their ability to make independent decisions, and prevents them from succumbing to various manipulations. Especially in an era when there is an increase in fast and unverified information spreading on social networks, such thinking becomes even more relevant. Epistemic thinking also plays an important role at the level of.

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