

# LUDWIG WITTGENHSTEIN'S SPIRITUAL HERITAGE: PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

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## **Abstract**

This article analyzes the spiritual heritage of the famous philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein from the point of view of philosophical foundations and its significance for society. The author, highlighting Wittgenstein's views on language, logic, and thought, tried to show the inextricable connection of his philosophical approaches with modern ideas. The article also analyzes Wittgenstein's thoughts as an important factor influencing the culture of communication, social consciousness, and moral views. According to him, the nature and structure of language not only shape thought processes, but also determine the relationships of people in social life. The article highlights the relevance of Wittgenstein's philosophy in the modern era and reveals its impact on education, scientific research, and cultural heritage.

**Keywords:** Ludwig Wittgenstein, philosophy, language and logic, analytical philosophy, spiritual heritage, social consciousness, thought, communication, ethical views, modern philosophical ideas.

## **Introduction**

The spiritual heritage of Ludwig Wittgenstein occupies a special place in the formation and development of modern philosophical thought. His philosophical views have created new directions and approaches not only within the framework of traditional Western philosophy, but also in the issues of human thought, language, and enlightenment. Wittgenstein's philosophy, by studying the essence of language and its place in the human mind, brought philosophical methodology to a new level. Therefore, his spiritual heritage is of great importance not only for philosophy, but also for the social sciences, pedagogy, psychology, and even political science.

His work "Logical-Philosophical Treatise" ("Logisch-Philosophische Abhandlung") occupies a unique place in the formation of analytical philosophy. In this work, Wittgenstein analyzes the possibilities and limits of language and tries to reveal the meaning and logical structures. It extensively discusses the issues of how human thinking is shaped by language and what role language plays in the thinking process. Later, his work "Philosophische Untersuchungen" ("Philosophical Investigations") proposed a new approach to the philosophy of language, in

which he argues that language acquires meaning in the process of use. This shows how important a role language plays in social processes.

## **EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS**

Wittgenstein's philosophy is not limited to theoretical analysis, but also has practical significance for society and culture. His philosophical views have had a great influence on the development of modern theory of knowledge, cognitive sciences, and social and humanities. Therefore, this chapter aims to comprehensively analyze Wittgenstein's intellectual legacy from the perspective of philosophical foundations, the relationship between language and thought, social meanings, and the impact on enlightenment.

Also, by revealing the social significance of Wittgenstein, we will try to show to what extent his ideas influenced the analysis of social relations, communication theory and information society in the present time. For this, it is necessary to analyze the aspects of his philosophy related to modern social and humanitarian sciences. Through this analysis, it can be shown how relevant Wittgenstein's philosophy is in today's scientific and philosophical environment.

Ludwig Wittgenstein is one of the most influential and controversial figures in twentieth-century philosophy. His intellectual evolution can be divided into two fundamentally different periods - the "early Wittgenstein" and the "later Wittgenstein". This distinction is clearly reflected not only in changes in his philosophical views, but also in changes in method and methodology.

An analysis of the process of Wittgenstein's intellectual formation allows us to understand his philosophical research more deeply and to assess his way of thinking and approaches more accurately. The main factors determining his intellectual evolution can be identified as personal experience, philosophical traditions, and factors influencing the scientific and intellectual environment of the time. From this point of view, a step-by-step study of Wittgenstein's philosophical development is of great importance in understanding the complex changes in his thinking and methodological approaches.

This section analyzes the main stages of Wittgenstein's intellectual development, the evolution of his philosophical views, and the factors that influenced this process.

Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein (born 26 April 1889 in Vienna, Austria-Hungary) was a philosopher who worked primarily in the fields of logic, mathematics, philosophy of mind, and language. He is considered one of the greatest philosophers of the 20th century. For the majority of his career, from 1929 to 1947, Wittgenstein taught at the University of Cambridge. Wittgenstein's concept of language games created a unique world of language and understanding that transformed philosophical and linguistic thinking. According to his friend and follower Georg Henrik von Wright, "Wittgenstein's ideas were often misunderstood and misinterpreted even by his students. He doubted that they would ever understand him better".

## **METHODOLOGY**

In his opinion, philosophy should restore to words their usual use, to form our ability to "visualize" this use and "see aspects". Wittgenstein hoped that if such an analysis revealed the

connections of language (and the hidden meaninglessness became clear), then there would be no need for explanation and all philosophical problems ("diseases") would disappear by themselves.

In the "Philosophical Investigations", Wittgenstein criticizes "mentalism" and, in particular, strongly opposes the interpretation of understanding as a mental process. In his opinion, understanding, like all other human activities, linguistic or non-linguistic, is based on rules. However, people usually do not think about these "rules", but act instinctively, "blindly". He also emphasizes that it is impossible to imagine language as a means of communication only as a personal, private language, even in a "thought experiment".

The publication of the Philosophical Investigations was a major event that influenced Western philosophy and various branches of analytic philosophy for many years.

One of the factors that led Wittgenstein to change his position in the late 1920s was his acquaintance with mathematical intuitionism. In his *Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics* (1969), he developed the "linguistic rules of conduct" peculiar to mathematicians. Wittgenstein's critical attitude towards the methods of justifying mathematical knowledge through the directions of formalism and logicism arose from his conviction that there were errors in understanding the meaning of mathematical expressions based on traditional views. Wittgenstein's philosophy of mathematics develops some ideas in the spirit of mathematical constructivism. He opposed the unlimited application of the law of excluded middle and expressed a tolerant attitude towards contradictions in mathematical systems.

Wittgenstein's last text, later called "On Certainty" (1969), discusses epistemological issues and the problem of skepticism. According to him, the concepts of "doubt" and "belief" arise only in certain systems of human activity.

## **RESULTS**

Throughout his life, Wittgenstein enriched his philosophical research with his personal experience, human sensitivity, and the pursuit of precision. His concepts of language games and everyday language understanding are still of great importance in modern philosophy and linguistics.

His philosophy was multifaceted and profound, and has given rise to various definitions and assessments. His students and researchers have interpreted his ideas in different ways, because Wittgenstein's style is unique and sometimes complex.

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Despite the many trials and changes in his philosophical views in his personal life, Wittgenstein left an indelible mark on the world of philosophy with his way of thinking and scientific

excellence. His legacy occupies an important place not only in Anglo-American philosophy, but also in modern thought and language theories. Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophical legacy reflects the evolution of his thinking and methodological approach. His philosophical direction begins with an understanding of the essence of language and extends to the concept of meaning formed through the use of language. The formation and evolution of Wittgenstein's philosophy are clearly visible in his works "Logical and Philosophical Treatises" and "Philosophical Investigations".

Wittgenstein's philosophical evolution is characterized by his constant revision and refinement of his ideas. While his early views explained language as a logical structure, later he proposed that the meaning of language depends on its social use. This change had a significant impact on various areas of modern philosophy, including analytical philosophy, cognitive science, and communication theory. Wittgenstein's philosophical legacy is of great importance not only in the field of philosophy, but also in the social sciences and the humanities. His views on the relationship between language and thought serve as an important tool in understanding the formation of human thought, the social nature of knowledge, and the processes of enlightenment. Therefore, a deeper study of Wittgenstein's philosophy and an understanding of its relevance for the present day remain one of the most pressing issues for philosophical research and social analysis.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The philosophical legacy of Ludwig Wittgenstein is of incomparable importance in the development of modern thought. His views on language, logic, and cognitive processes had a significant impact not only on the development of philosophy, but also on the formation of the principles of social consciousness and communication. In Wittgenstein's early works (in particular, in *Tractatus Logico-Philosophical*), his analysis of language as a logical structure and its view as a means of expressing truth led him to take a leading place in analytical philosophy. Later, he developed his ideas and moved on to explain language as a system related to social phenomena and practice, which was reflected in the work *Philosophical Investigations*.

One of the main conclusions of Wittgenstein's philosophy is that language is not only a means of transmitting information, but also a powerful factor that shapes relationships between people and determines the consciousness of society. This approach creates the opportunity for a deeper analysis of the culture of communication, processes of understanding, and moral and social values.

Today, Wittgenstein's ideas are used not only in philosophy, but also in the fields of linguistics, psychology, sociology, computer science, and even artificial intelligence. His theory of language games is of great importance for understanding how human thought works, developing communication systems, and improving educational methods.

Therefore, Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophical views not only constitute an important part of 20th-century philosophy, but have not lost their relevance in the modern intellectual

environment. His works provide a deep insight into the nature of human knowledge and thinking, creating a solid theoretical basis for analyzing social and ethical problems.

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