



**TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
&
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR - 2017**

**ON
“ PERSONAL FREEDOM, CULTURAL PRACTICES,
GLOBAL GOVERNANCE,
AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTANCE”**

(28th, 29th, and 30th November 2017)

**FACULTY OF ARTS - UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA
SRI LANKA**

COLLABORATION WITH

**ASSOCIATION OF THIRD WORLD STUDIES
SOUTH ASIA CHAPTER
(ATWS-SAC)**

Empiricists' Approaches on Perception with Special Reference to Locke, Berkeley and Hume – A Philosophical Analysis

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The aims of this paper is to analyze the approaches of John Locke, George Berkeley and David Hume on Perception from the philosophical point of view. The concept of perception has been become a debatable investigation area in epistemology since the 17th century regarding the validity, believe and justification of the true knowledge. The theory of empiricism emphasizes that human knowledge is derived entirely from sensory experiences and validity knowledge can only be gained via the senses which is called as 'sense perception'. John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume were the primary exponents of empiricism in the 17th and 18th century and their interpretation of perception were differ within themselves. John Locke proposed that we can only be aware of mental representations of objects through perception. George Berkeley proposed that everything we perceive is dependent upon our mind. In contrast, David Hume proposed that perceptual knowledge is always skeptical. These various accounts on perception led to several theories in the contemporary period. Hence, this paper critically analyzes philosophical argument based on their view on perception. This research is mainly based on secondary data particularly from original sources of Locke, Berkeley and Hume. Further, this study will collect the data from the related books, scholarly articles from the journals on related topics, and recognized sources of web. As this research mainly adopts on the qualitative method, researcher intends to utilize historical, analytical, comparative and descriptive methods for analyzing the data gathered from related sources.

Key Words: Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Empiricism, Perception, Ideas.