

# The Role of Logic in Academic Freedom

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## Abstract

The essence of academic freedom is considered as the freedom of the mind. It is an essential theme of academic life based on reasoned thought or logic. It is free from bias therefore mind must also be free as it is an essential instrument for reasoned thought or logic. The research question in this paper is how to apprehend the concept of academic freedom and its relation to logic. It is necessary to search for the relationship between the role of logic and academic freedom. Only when this problem is solved, the essential problem – the problem of academic freedom – can also be solved. In this paper, to solve the above problem analysis and surveying the literary evidences will be made with reference to " *Philosophy and Freedom*" written by Heydar Reghaby.

Keywords: Academic Freedom, Freedom of Mind, Reasoned Thought, Logic

## Introduction

Philosophy literally means love of wisdom because it is a search for the fundamental nature of the world, the grounds for human knowledge and the evaluation of human conduct. Traditionally, philosophy has three branches. They are metaphysics, epistemology and logic. Metaphysics means theory of being or reality because it is the study of the nature of being and reality. Epistemology means theory of knowledge because it is the study of knowledge and attempts to determine the limits of human understanding. So it is known as the philosophy of knowledge. Logic means science or art of reasoning, branch of philosophy that studies valid reasoning and argument about its concerns.

In order to achieve the concept of academic freedom and to understand actual meaning of it is needed. This requirement can be fulfilled by studying the nature of logic because it studies the laws and principles of the correct reasoning which gives us true or valid source of knowledge about the concept of academic freedom. Then the realization of logical function of academic freedom and the need for real means and definitions can help to distinguish the correct reasoning from the incorrect reasoning about the concept of academic freedom. The aim of this paper is to show the most important role of logic in order to realize or achieve the concept of academic freedom.

## An Introduction to the Nature of Logic in Philosophy

The word logic in philosophy comes from the Greek word "*logos*" which means many things. They are speech, ratio, description, science, word, saying, oracle or thing. For academic fields, however, the Greek word *logos* means thought or reason or science. Therefore, logic is the science and art of reasoning, the science and art of correct and accurate thinking and the science of its Principle-Logos. According to I. M. Copi (1917-2002), logic is the study of methods and principles used in distinguishing correct reasoning. This definition does not mean only the student of logic can reason well or correctly. But among the two people who have the same intelligent power, a person who has studied logic is more likely to reason correctly than one who has never thought about a general principles involved in logic. Moreover, logic has often been defined as the science of the laws of thought, but this definition is not accurate although it can present the nature of logic. It is not a branch of psychology which deals with law of thought, but a separate and distinct field of study.

Another general definition of logic is the science of reasoning. This definition is better, but it still will not do perfectly. The logician, nevertheless, is concerned with the correctness of the completed process of reasoning. The problems of logician are: Does the problem get solved? Does the conclusion follow from the premise or premises? Do the premises provide

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strongly good reasons for the conclusion? According to I. M. Copi, if the problem gets solved, if the premises support adequate grounds for affirming the conclusion, if asserting the conclusion to be true necessarily follows from asserting the premises to be true, then the reasoning is correct or valid. Otherwise, it is incorrect or invalid. So, the distinction between correct and incorrect reasoning, is the central problem of logic that has something to do with the problem of academic freedom.

There are two kinds of logic that can be distinguished. One is deductive logic which pertains to the elements of necessity in or proper thinking and the other is inductive logic which pertains the elements of probability and reliability in all proper thinking. Although every argument involves the assertion that its premises provide some grounds for the true of its conclusion, only a deductive argument involves the assertion that its premises support conclusive grounds. Every deductive argument is either valid or invalid and then the task of deductive logic is to clarify the nature of the relation between premises and conclusion and to distinguish valid arguments from invalid arguments.

An inductive argument involves the assertion, not that its premises gives conclusive grounds for the truth of its conclusion, but only that they provide some support for it. Inductive arguments are neither valid nor invalid and they are different from the terms applied to the deductive arguments. For the strength of the support provided their conclusion by their premises and by the degree of like-hood or probability which their premises discuss upon their conclusions, inductive arguments may be evaluated as better or worse.

Deductive and inductive are characterized and distinguished from one another by means of the relative generality of their premises and conclusions. In the book of *"The Philosophy of Inductive Science"* written by William Whewell (1794-1866) cited by Copi that

"... in Deduction we infer particular from general truth; while in Induction we infer general from particular..."<sup>2</sup>

### **Logic leads to Realization of Freedom of Mind**

Generally speaking, logic is the science of reasoning or the art of reasoning because its meaning itself is the study of thinking or reasoning. In fact, they are not the same because thinking refers to any mental process that take place in the mind of human being. But reasoning is a special kind of thinking with an aim to get valid conclusion or the end of valid answer which has been followed from its premise or premises by using as an evidence or reason for their conclusion. In philosophy, the combination of premise and conclusion has been known as an argument that can be found valid or invalid argument. Their validity based on its implication of premise and conclusion of an argument or inference. In order to achieve a valid argument about any problem, the role of reasoning power is the most essential requirement because valid reason is free from any other bias about their concerns. Then, valid reasoning is to reach the freedom of mind or academic freedom.

### **An Introduction to the Concept of Academic Freedom**

The concept of freedom is the most essential term of human life because it is a product of consciousness and self realization which has been based on reasoned thought or logic. It is a product of a constant search for man's freedom and a direction towards freedom from any other bias. Freedom is the main characteristic of manhood because it is the central concept of all about the problem. It is the modern philosophy which places its greatest emphasis upon this central concept of thinking and reasoned thought. Reasoned thought searches for freedom in academic life, in man's social convictions, in art, in science and in philosophy itself.

Philosophy based on reasoned thought extends from individual contemplations to social revolutions. It is behind political movements, artistic products and scientific discoveries.

<sup>2</sup> Irving M. Copi. (1986). Introduction to Logic. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, P-547



Everywhere it is motivated by the vital questions of freedom. In that freedom becomes a question, philosophy based on reasoned thought becomes a necessity. The problem of freedom has always been a life-relating cause of reasoned thought. The conceptual relationship between freedom and reasoned thought is meaningful when it is mediated by the concept of life based on reasoning. Freedom is to be interpreted in terms of reasoned life and life in terms of freedom based on reasoned thought. Reason thought sees freedom wherever it sees reasoned life and it projects reasoned life whenever it project freedom based on reasoned thought.

Here the freedom of thinking mind seems to be the most important factor because it has been based on reasoned life took reasoned thought. The concept of academic freedom seems to have been derived from freedom to think. An inquiry of academic freedom therefore begins with logic or reasoned thought .Only reason thought is freedom of mind or academic freedom.

### **The Essence of Academic Freedom as Freedom of Mind**

Reasoned thought is free from any other bias because it is distinguished correct or valid from incorrect or invalid. Reason is based on free will. And mind is the essential instrument for reasoned thought. Since reasoned thought is free, mind as the instrument for reasoning power must also be free. The reason for the freedom of mind is therefore reasoned thought. It can be found in the writing of H. Reghaby as follows; "the essence of academic freedom is freedom of mind"<sup>3</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Philosophy means love of wisdom which has been realized by using logic, branch of it, because the nature of logic is science of reasoning and art of reasoned thought about its concerns. Logic, moreover, is the study of methods and principles used in distinguishing correct reasoned thought. If a person in his life achieved correct reasoning about any problem on himself then he posses the reasoned life. It can be accounted as the freedom of life. The concept of freedom is the most essential theme of human life and the main characteristic of manhood or moral beings who love reasoned thought. It is free from any other bias and mind is the essential instrument for reasoned thought. Since reason is based on free will, mind must also be freedom to think. In fact, reasoned thought in the subject logic is freedom to think. The essence of academic freedom seems to have been derived from freedom to think or freedom of mind. Therefore academic freedom can be realized by applying reasoned thought which has been founded on logic. So it is concluded that logic plays the most important role in academic freedom.

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<sup>3</sup> H. Reghaby. (1970). Philosophy and Freedom. New York: Philosophical Library, Inc. p.20.