

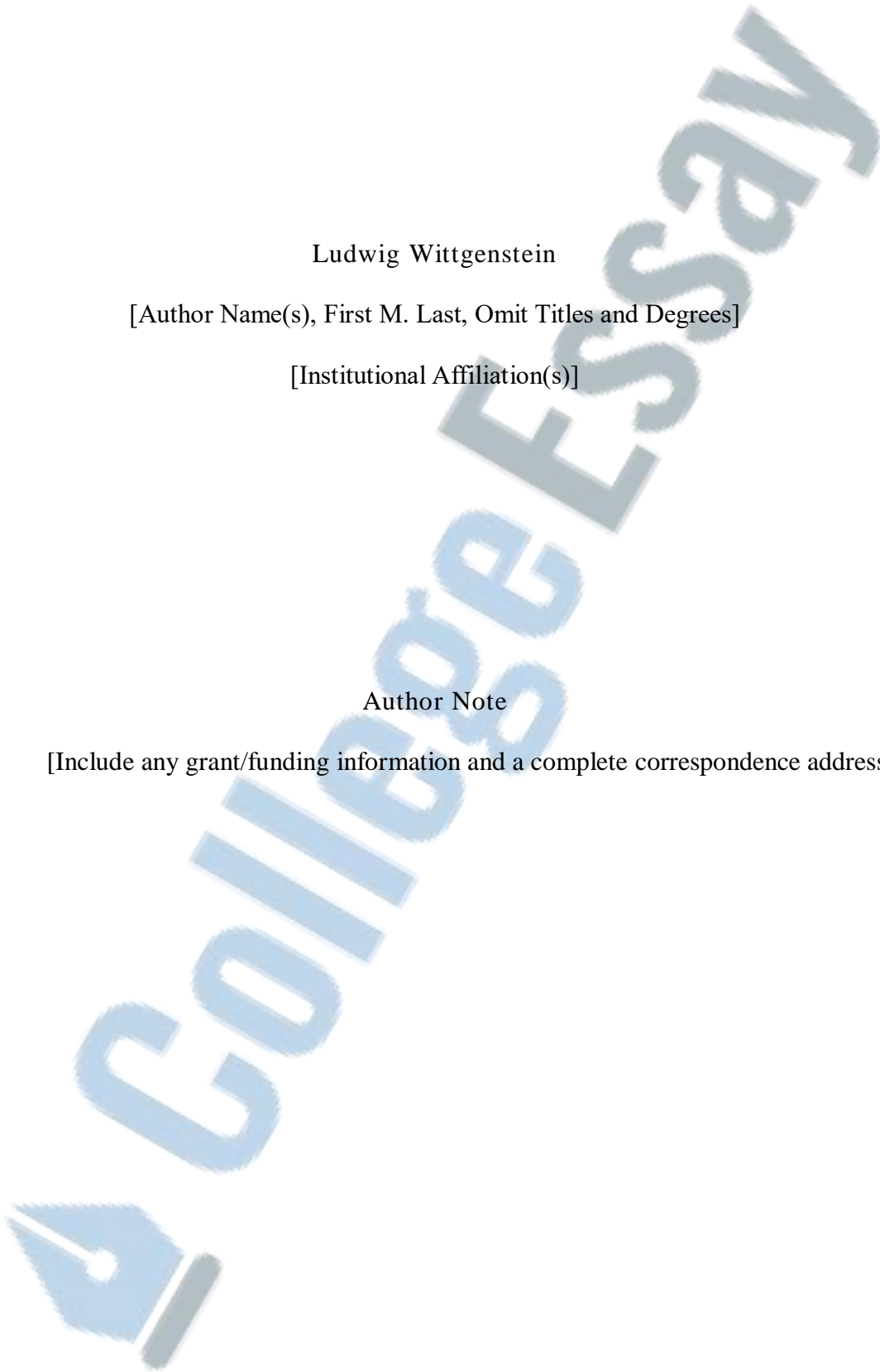
Ludwig Wittgenstein

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### Ludwig Wittgenstein

In his work *On Certainty*, Wittgenstein makes the claim that "We use judgments as principles of judgments." (OC: 124). This is a pivotal statement in his work and one that has been hotly debated by scholars and researchers.

#### **Wittgenstein's Statement can be Interpreted in a Number of Ways**

Wittgenstein's statement has been subject to much analysis and debate, with a range of possible interpretations. One interpretation is that judgments are a form of rule-following behavior; this idea states that there are certainly accepted precepts by which a judgment should be made. For example, humans may think that if two people have a disagreement, the best policy is to listen to both sides before making their own decision. This approach acts as a principle of judgment by allowing considering different evidence and opinions before concluding. Further, Wittgenstein also seemed to suggest that judgments themselves can serve as a guiding assumption for further judgments; given the initial judgment, it becomes much easier to create further related categories or rulings. For example, if an individual judges something as being wrong – say stealing – then it follows logically that any action with those same characteristics must also be wrong. Therefore it can be concluded from Wittgenstein's statement that he believes judgments serve multiple roles: rules for making judgments and principles from which further conclusions can be drawn. In this way, his statement has sparked debate amongst philosophers and continues to provoke discussion in modern society.

#### **Humans Use their Previous Judgments as a Basis For Making New Ones**

The Austrian-British philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein has consistently tended to blur the distinction between language and thought. In his statement 'We use judgments as principles of judgments' (OC: 124), he is pointing to the way in which their beliefs, values, and ideas about

life come together in a unified system. This unifying structure helps to make further judgments based on their past ones by providing an underlying logical organization. By constructing categories and concepts from previous understandings, humans can take them as guiding principles for making new decisions. In other words, their ideas about life form a collective set of criteria upon which subsequent conclusions might be made. This could be seen as the beginning of an interpretive framework that helps to interpret facts and formulate opinions. Consequently, Wittgenstein's suggestion that 'we use judgments as principles of judgments' (OC: 124) encapsulates how internalized principles become frameworks used to create meaning and make sense of their environment. Furthermore, his analogy implies that human beings do not function simply through pure logic or independent thought - rather, they think within certain frameworks instituted by prior experience and understanding.

### **The Act of Judging Itself Relies on Pre-Existing Judgments**

Ludwig Wittgenstein's observation that "We use judgments as principles of judgments" (OC: 124) can be interpreted to mean that the act of judging itself is rooted in pre-existing judgments. In terms of its application within a legal setting, for example, this implies that precedents and case law serve as guides for the formation of new judgments. This means that when a judge is presented with a case to review, they will often draw upon past cases and interpretations as they endeavor to form their own decision. Similarly, lay people also rely on experience and wisdom as they discern between right and wrong; without these, any judgment runs the risk of being ungrounded or overly arbitrary. Therefore, it can be argued that assessment of all kinds ultimately draws from an existing set of values, practices, and guidelines - making Wittgenstein's words all the more pertinent to contemporary society.

Accordingly, it is clear then that humans use previously established judgmental templates when making their assessment; these may be formalized by law but are very much embedded in their attitudes and moral values too. Ultimately then, humans cannot escape judgment unless humans suspend their moral and ethical codes - something that goes against both human nature and societal norms. As such, Wittgenstein's statement serves both as an apt summation of their understanding of judgmental conduct while simultaneously spurring on toward greater understanding.

Therefore, it can be ascertained that Wittgenstein's words -- "We use judgments as principles of judgments," -- accurately reflect their inherent dependence on already formulated decision-making processes in order to form their judgments efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, it allows recognizing just how integral shared knowledge is in setting the standards by which individuals are judged by society. Therefore Wittgenstein has not only provided an insightful observation but also acted as a reminder that the formation of judgments comes hand-in-hand with using precedents for guidance.

### **The System of Making and Understanding Judgments is Based on a Set of Principles that Humans have Internalized**

Ludwig Wittgenstein's writings on the nature of judgment have had a significant impact on philosophical thought. Specifically, his argument that "we use judgments as principles of judgments" (OC: 124) has been particularly influential in cognitive psychology, linguistics, and other fields in which epistemology plays a central role. By exploring this sentiment, he suggests that the ability to make and understand judgments is derived from their earliest experiences with language and culture. The knowledge humans acquire about what constitutes good judgment is then applied over time, forming the basis for subsequent cognitive processes. Through this line

of reasoning, Wittgenstein highlights that judgment works by comparison rather than being an innate or objective truth. This insight helps to explain how certain forms of judgment reach consensus across cultures and how certain behavior can be subjectively judged depending on context. Ultimately, Wittgenstein's idea serves as a reminder that their understanding of "good" depends more upon societal traditions than any kind of absolute moral code.

### **Wittgenstein Statement has Implications for how Humans View the World and Make Decisions about what is True or False**

Ludwig Wittgenstein's statement: "We use judgments as principles of judgments" (OC: 124) has fundamental implications for how humans view the world and make decisions about what is true or false. Wittgenstein's core argument is that to understand truth and falsity truly; one must consider patterns of judgments applied across various situations. This implies a 'principle-dependence' that restricts their understanding of truth and falsity to the established set of conditions. This means that one is only able to assign a value of truth or falsity according to criteria that have already been predetermined by a community and may be further shaped by cultural practices and individual beliefs. This presents practical challenges for decision-making, whereby one must be aware of their own biases and consider these factors in evaluating whether something is true or false before making an appraisal or judgment about something. In this way, understanding Wittgenstein's assertion allows them to approach their understanding of the world with mindful consideration and insight into the relationship between judgment, reason, evidence, and opinion.



**Relation to Wittgenstein's Remarks on Judging and how Humans Learn to Judge, and The Notion that Certain Things "Stand Fast" in their Lives with Language.**

In his remarks on judging, Wittgenstein noted that humans use judgments as principles of judgment. He was particularly interested in how humans learn to judge, and what he called the "fixity" of their opinions. Wittgenstein's observation suggests that there is a close relationship between their use of language and the way humans form judgments.

**Relation to His Remarks on Judging and How Humans Learn to Judge**

Ludwig Wittgenstein's famous statement that "we use judgments as principles of judgments" is an important part of his remarks on the act of judging and how humans learn to judge. In this context, to judge is defined as the mental act of comparing a given situation or object to what is considered right and wrong. This comparison can be made in a variety of ways, including through their knowledge, reason, experience, memory of past experiences, emotions, values, and more. According to Wittgenstein, these individual judgments form their initial starting point when it comes to making future judgment calls. He argued that their first set of judgments - whether spoken or not - could then serve as the "principles" for assessing further scenarios in which humans must make decisions ourselves. In other words, each person's judging would be based on their own history of judgments or principles - something that humans are always refining as they have new experiences and learn more about cause-and-effect relationships. This causes them to adjust their original beliefs accordingly. Therefore, humans can say that Wittgenstein's statement references both how humans judge originally and how their judgment processes evolve over time.

### **The Notion that Certain Things "Stand Fast" in Humans' Lives with Language**

In contemporary discourse, concepts of stability and resilience have become commonplace. This is evidenced in the notion that certain things 'stand fast' in humans' lives; in other words, they bear with through the chaos and uncertainty of the world. Language has long served as an example of this kind of longevity in human life. For centuries, language has been praised as an essential tool for belonging and connecting to their ancestors, loved ones, and even strangers. Language also offers a sense of emotional security by providing both boundaries and opportunities for expression; it allows one to process complex feelings in order to create meaningful relationships. Moreover, language is famously resistant to physical or temporal change; it persists through wars and changing trends, holding on to its roots even when cultural customs evolve over time. In short, language demonstrates the potential for permanence in their lives—a permanence that can be achieved only by recognizing the beauty of a shared cultural heritage across generations. As such, humans should continue to explore how language can stand fast within their lives as a way to reconcile personal and collective moments amidst life's uncertainties. Making use of language is one way humans can tap into this notion of stability and resilience that exists within all humans and their cultures - even when facing changes in today's world.

### **Implications of Wittgenstein's Statement for their Understanding of Language and Learning**

Wittgenstein's statement that "we use judgments as principles of judgments" is a key insight into how language and learning work. In other words, humans take what they know and build upon it to intellectualize the world around them. This process requires things like critical thinking skills and a willingness to accept new perspectives. This idea has major implications for

education. By cultivating an awareness of the connections between language and understanding, teachers can empower students to become active learners. In addition, it encourages them to think critically about the information they encounter rather than simply taking things at face value or memorizing details for factual recall tests. Furthermore, it provides the guiding principle for developing more complex ideas from existing foundations, taking something from 'known' to 'understanding.' Ultimately, his statement helps better to understand human's capacity for language and learning. It provides a framework that humans can use both in terms of teaching practices and individual study habits. As such, it is an invaluable insight into how humans interact with the world around us.

### **Conclusion**

The focused statement provided by Wittgenstein is complex, but it can be interpreted in several ways. Two possible interpretations of his words have been explored. The first interpretation is that their judgments are based on pre-existing judgments. The second interpretation is that the act of judging itself relies on pre-existing judgments. Both of these interpretations have important implications for how humans view the world and make decisions about what is true or false. Ultimately, Wittgenstein is saying that their system of making and understanding judgments is based on a set of principles humans have internalized. This has significant implications for how humans view reality and interact with the world around us.

Moreover, this perspective is one of the most important philosophical insights into how humans learn and use language. It shows that their understanding of language is based on a web of interconnected judgments, which in turn are based on their everyday experiences. This has far-reaching implications for how humans think about learning and communication. The remarks with regards to judging also illustrate his view that certain things "stand fast" in their lives with



language, resisting change or interpretation. Thus, this helps to understand why it can be so difficult to change someone's mind about an issue - once a judgment has been made, it becomes part of the individual's linguistic framework.



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