Pragmatism: Peirce, James, and Dewey.

Pierce

1. Truth of true knowledge is only true and viable is that particular conception can be measured and observed through empirically generated data. If an idea or a conception could be explained or elaborated with practical observation, that idea or conception cannot then be categorized as knowledge.
2. In order to conceive of the idea, we must take into account, the physical and measures sensations that we experience through the idea.

William James

1. To have a belief is to have certain rules for that action.
2. To have a clear idea, the thinker should be able to have ideas regarding the properties of the idea, the practical effects of the idea, and conduct of the object—this way of James’ thinking was greatly influenced by Peirce.

John Dewey

1. Instrumentalism
   a. Thought is the instrument or tool that nature uses to make sense of situations. All situations are new; however, all situations contain elements of formal situations which we formed due to the thoughts that travelled through it. Therefore, all thoughts are formed interconnected with previous thoughts. And due to the interconnectivity of thought, thoughts get and richer with new meaning and complexities.
   b. Ideas are plastic an adaptable: ideas adapt and shape themselves based on the given situation. Human cognition is instrumental in shaping the ideas based on the ever-changing situations.
2. Structure of Reality
   a. Reality is relative; i.e. subjective and dependent on human action.
   b. Data generated during ratification of reality can be altered by human action thereby making reality subjective. In addition, Human action is not fixed and predictable; in fact human action alters based on memory of past experiences.
   c. And idea is therefore a culmination of memory of past experience.
   d. Ideas guide action towards bettering situations.
   e. Ideas are true if they can successfully produce new and better situations.
   f. It is because of morality that human action is driven to create ideas that lead towards bettering and reinventing situations.
   g. Personality is then develop because of the initiative and inventiveness that human action displays in order to reinvent and re-energize a given situation.
   h. Knowledge and morality are positively co-related. As knowledge increases so does morality.

Dewey is against classical philosophies such as classical Realism because he believes that classical realism has divided reality into categories of true and not true. Dewey believes that the only reality is nature and nature is constantly in state of flux; therefore, our knowledge of nature or in this case, reality
is also consequently in a state of flux. True knowledge results from scientific research applied to the
datum of experience and the only purpose of scientific research is the determination of the structure of
reality. Dewey suggested that metaphysics be abandoned because metaphysics the quest of immutable
reality if a waste since there is no such thing as an immutable reality.

Peirce and James’s philosophy that has been categorized as pragmatism is ground in experimentation
and verification. In other words according to James’ and Peirce’s pragmatism, ideas of reality can only
be formed in those ideas lead to measurable and observable actions. Dewey’s pragmatism, on the other
hand, believes that reality is always in a constant state of flux and new realities are constantly carved
based on human actions. Dewey’s pragmatism incorporates experimentation and verification but takes
to new level by incorporating psychology and logic where measurable and observable data is a
consequence of experience and it is only such data should be used in determining the structure of
reality.