Term: Pragmatism

Quote: ...I have come to think that the common pragmatistic opinion [...] is that every thought (unless perhaps certain single ideas each quite *sui generis*) has a meaning beyond the immediate content of the thought itself, so that it is as absurd to speak of a thought in itself as it would be to say of a man that he was a husband in himself or a son in himself, and this not merely because thought always refers to a real or fictitious object, but also because it supposes itself to be interpretable. If this analysis of the pragmatistic opinion be correct, the logical breadth of the term *pragmatist* is hereby enormously enlarged.


References: MS [R] 908:2; EP 2:361

Date of Quote: 1905 [c.]

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-basis-pragmaticism-40