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