Term: External

Quote: Any object whose attributes, i.e. all that may truly be predicated, or asserted, of it, will, and always would, remain exactly what they are, unchanged, though you or I or any man or men should think or should have thought as variously as you please, I term *external*, in contradistinction to *mental*. [—]

The main difference between the *external*, as I use the term, and the *real*, as I employ that term, seems to be that the question whether anything is *external* or not is the question of what a word or other symbol or concept (for thinking proper is always conducted in general signs of some sort) is, I say, a question of what a symbol signifies; while the question of whether anything is *real* or is a *figment* is the question what a word or other symbol or concept denotes.


References: CP 8.327-8

Date of Quote: 1907

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-fourth-curiosity-5