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CONTENTS:

- 1. Immediate Inference**
- 2. Obversion**
- 3. Obversion of A proposition**
- 4. Obversion of E proposition**
- 5. Obversion of I proposition**
- 6. Obversion of O proposition**
- 7. Material Obversion**

IMMEDIATE INFERENCE

- Inference or reasoning is the process of passing from one or more proposition to another, which is justified by them.
- An inference requires more than one proposition.
- When an inference is expressed in language is called an argument.
- Argument consists of more than one proposition.
- Inference have been broadly divided into Deductive and Inductive.

- Deductive inference have been subdivided into Immediate and Mediate.
- So immediate inference may be of various kinds like conversion, obversion, contraposition, inversion and opposition.

OBVERSION

- Obversion is a kind of Immediate inference in which there is change in the quality of the given proposition, while its meaning remains unchanged.
- The given proposition which is to be obverted is called the obvertant, and the conclusion is called the obverse.

There are some rules of obversion-

1. The subject of the obverse is the same as the subject of the obvertend.
2. The predicate of the obverse is the contradictory of the predicate of the obvertend.
3. The quality of the obverse is the opposite of the quality of the obvertend, if the obvertend be the affirmative the obverse is negative and if the obvertend be negative the obverse is affirmative.
4. The quantity of the obverse is the same as the quantity of the obvertend, if the obvertend be universal the obverse is also universal and if the obvertend be particular the obverse is also particular.

Now apply these rules in obverting the four kinds of proposition:

Obversion of 'A' proposition

The obverse of A is E.

Obvertend A- All S is P or All men are mortal.

Therefore, .Obverse E-No S is not P or No men are non- mortal.

Here the obvertend is affirmative but the obverse is negative. The contradictory of the given predicate becomes the predicate in the conclusion, the subject is the same and the quantity is unchanged.

Obversion of 'E'

The obverse of E is A.

Thus, Obvertend E-No S is P or No man is perfect.

Therefore obverse A all S is not P or All men are nonperfect.

Obversion of 'I'

The obverse of I is O

Thus, Obvertend I – Some S is P or Some men are intelligent .

Therefore obverse O – Some S is not P or Some men are not non intelligent.

OBVERSION OF 'O'

The obverse of O is I

Thus, Obvertend O –Some S is not P or Some men are not honest.

Therefore obverse I –Some S is P or Some men are honest.

To sum up : By obversion A gives E : E gives A : I gives O :

and O gives I.

Material Obversion, Bain recognises recognises that material inferences are entirely different from the formal inferences of obversion

In Obversion, the subject of the obverse is the same as the subject of the given proposition , whereas in these cases they are contraries.

In Obversion, the contradictory of the given predicate become the

predicate of the conclusion , here the quality is the same whereas in obversion the quality of the conclusion is the opposite of the quality of the given proposition these are material inferences based on experience and knowledge and do not come within the scope of deductive logic.