

C710588 : MAJOR PHILOSOPHY

KEY WORD: JOHN HICK / RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

NAPHADEJ KANCHANA : JOHN HICK'S RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND THE QUESTION OF REALITY. THESIS ADVISOR : ASST. PROF. PRATOOM

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This thesis aims at clarifying the arguments in John Hick's theory of religious pluralism. The first part is concerned with explaining the concept of inclusivism, exclusivism and religious pluralism. Religious pluralism, in particular, can be divided into three categories : absolute religious pluralism, relative religious pluralism, and pluralistic religious pluralism. Hick's absolute religious pluralistic position is influenced by Kant's epistemology. The second part concerns debates between Hick and Phillips, who believes in relative religious pluralism. Afterwards the thesis deals with pluralistic religious pluralism, which has both strong points and weak points in the same way as does Hick's theory. In addition, Verkamp argues that Hick has some problems explaining reality and the connection between reality and appearance. In the last part, I propose a solution to Hick's impasse. Buddhadasa's view on the law of nature is used for explaining reality. Buddhadasa's view about there being no binary opposite ideology is proposed to solve the problem of explaining the noumenon and the connection between the noumenon and the phenomenon.

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