

Glossary entry

validity: The extent to which a claim to knowledge may be believed; it is assessed by applying standards of judgment to units of appraisal within the claim.

Further explanation

From a Living Educational Theory Research perspective, the validity of an explanation of educational influence in learning can be enhanced by submitting an explanation to a validation group of between 3-8 peers. The validation group uses Popper's insight that objectivity, grounded in intersubjective criticism can be enhanced through the mutual rational controls of critical discussion (Popper 1975, p.44). Validity can be enhanced through using modification of the four criteria Habermas (1976, pp. 1-2) uses to enhance the validity of communications:

- How can I enhance the comprehensibility of my explanation?
- How can I strengthen the evidence I use to justify my explanations?
- How can I deepen and extend my understandings of the sociocultural and sociohistorical influences in my practice and explanations?
- How can I enhance the authenticity of my explanations in showing that I am living my values of human flourishing as fully as possible?

Habermas, J. (1976) *Communication and the evolution of society*. London : Heinemann

Popper, K. (1975) *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, London; Hutchinson & Co.