Chomsky, Noam

Recent contributions to the theory of innate ideas. (English) Zbl 0183.00604

Summary: I think that it will be useful to separate two issues in the discussion of our present topic –
one is the issue of historical interpretation, namely, what in fact was the content of the classical doctrine
of innate ideas, let us say, in Descartes and Leibniz; the second is the substantive issue, namely, in the
light of the information presently available, what can we say about the prerequisites for the acquisition
of knowledge – what can we postulate regarding the psychologically a priori principles that determine
the character of learning and the nature of what is acquired.

For a scan of this review see the web version.

MSC:

03A05 Philosophical and critical aspects of logic and foundations
00A30 Philosophy of mathematics

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