



# Neutrosophy means: Common Parts to Uncommon Things and Uncommon Parts to Common Things

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**Abstract:** Let  $\langle A \rangle$  be an item, concept, idea, proposition, school of thought, current, theory, etc. and  $\langle \text{anti}A \rangle$  be the opposite of  $\langle A \rangle$ . Analogously for  $\langle B \rangle$  and its opposite  $\langle \text{anti}B \rangle$ .

Neutrosophy means to find:

- (i) common parts to uncommon things (that is,  $\langle A \rangle$  and  $\langle \text{anti}A \rangle$  have something in common, or their intersection  $\langle A \rangle \cap \langle \text{anti}A \rangle$  is not empty), and vice versa:
- (ii) uncommon parts to common things (the two equal items  $\langle A \rangle = \langle B \rangle$  have also uncommon parts, either  $\langle A \rangle \cap \langle \text{anti}B \rangle$  is not empty, or  $\langle \text{anti}A \rangle \cap \langle B \rangle$  is not empty).

Both, the *Common Parts to Uncommon Things*, and the *Uncommon Parts to Common Things*, end up being parts of indeterminacy / neutrality situated between the opposites: denoted by  $\langle \text{neut}A \rangle$ , which means neither  $\langle A \rangle$  nor  $\langle \text{anti}A \rangle$ , but in between them; and respectively by  $\langle \text{neut}B \rangle$ , which similarly means neither  $\langle B \rangle$  nor  $\langle \text{anti}B \rangle$ , but in between them.

**Keywords:** Neutrosophy, Paradoxism, Dialectics, Yin Yang, Soft Sciences, Capitalism, Socialism, Psychoanalysis, Analytical Psychology, Democracy, Representative Democracy, Alchemy, Science, Dialectics, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Social Systems Theory, Paradoxical Intention, Pro-choice, Pro-life, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Psychodynamic Therapy.

## 1. Introduction

Neutrosophy, a philosophical framework that I developed more than two decades ago [Smarandache 1998], explores the relationships and interactions between opposites and their neutralities/indeterminacies, seeking to find commonalities between them and identifying uncommon elements within similar entities, emphasizing the complexity and interconnectedness of concepts. Neutrosophy transcends traditional binary thinking by examining the interplay between opposites and the neutralities/indeterminacies between them.

*Neutrosophy* is an extension of the movement called *Paradoxism* [Smarandache 1980], in literature/arts/science/philosophy, *Dialectics* [Hegel], [Marx], and *Yin Yang Ancient Chinese Philosophy* <sup>1</sup> – because the last three schools took into consideration the dynamics between the opposites only, while omitting their neutralities/indeterminacies that play an important role in the balance between opposites.

<sup>1</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "yinyang". Encyclopedia Britannica, 12 Feb. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/yinyang>. Accessed 30 May 2024.

By identifying and studying common parts in uncommon things and uncommon parts in common things, neutrosophy reveals the complexity and interconnectedness inherent in various ideas and phenomena.

This article shortly presents the two core principles of neutrosophic research in soft sciences, then exemplifies these neutrosophic principles, and suggests applications, illustrating how neutrosophy provides a nuanced understanding of the world.

## 2. Two Neutrosophic Core Principles

### 2.1. Searching for Common Parts in Uncommon Things

This principle posits the study of opposing concepts that share (some) common elements. For example:

- **Political Ideologies:** *Capitalism*<sup>2</sup> [Hickel] and *Socialism*<sup>3</sup> [Cole] both pretend their aim to be the improvement of societal welfare and economic prosperity, though their proposed methods differ.
- **Psychological Theories:** Freud's *Psychoanalysis*<sup>4</sup> [Freud] and Jung's *Analytical Psychology*<sup>5</sup> [Jung] both focus on the unconscious mind but having distinct theoretical foundations and methodologies.

### 2.2. Searching for Uncommon Parts in Common Things

This principle propounds the research of similar or equivalent concepts containing elements that are distinct or oppositional.

- **Forms of Governance:** *Democracy*<sup>6</sup> and *Representative Democracy*<sup>7</sup> both emphasize the role of the people, yet representative democracy involves elected officials, while direct democracy involves direct citizen participation. [Landemore]
- **Forms of Thinking:** *Empiricism* [Gupta] *vs.* *Alchemy* [Ferguson]: Both seek understanding of the world, but *alchemy*<sup>8</sup> lacks the methodology and empirical support of *science*<sup>9</sup>.

## 3. Investigation in Soft Sciences

### 3.1. Hegelian Dialectics

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<sup>2</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "What is capitalism?". Encyclopedia Britannica, 24 Feb. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/question/What-is-capitalism>. Accessed 27 May 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "What is socialism?". Encyclopedia Britannica, 11 Apr. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/question/What-is-socialism>. Accessed 27 May 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Jay, Martin Evan. "Sigmund Freud". Encyclopedia Britannica, 20 May. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sigmund-Freud>. Accessed 28 May 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Fordham, Frieda. "Carl Jung". Encyclopedia Britannica, 18 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Carl-Jung>. Accessed 28 May 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Shapiro, Ian, Dahl, Robert A. and Froomkin, David. "democracy". Encyclopedia Britannica, 6 May. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy>. Accessed 29 May 2024.

<sup>7</sup> Raikar, Sanat Pai. "representative democracy". Encyclopedia Britannica, 29 Feb. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/representative-democracy>. Accessed 29 May 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "alchemy (pseudoscience)". Encyclopedia Britannica, 29 Mar. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/alchemy>. Accessed 29 May 2024.

<sup>9</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "science". Encyclopedia Britannica, 25 May. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/science/science>. Accessed 29 May 2024.

In Hegelian *Dialectics*<sup>10</sup>, ideas and reality develop through the interaction of opposites. An initial idea (*thesis*) is countered by an opposing idea (*antithesis*), leading to a resolution (*synthesis*) that integrates elements of both. [Hegel]

### 3.2. Structuralism and Post-Structuralism

These theories explore the so-called construction and de-construction of meaning.

- *Structuralism*: Lévi-Strauss examines how elements within a culture or system are interrelated. [Lévi-Strauss]
- *Post-Structuralism*: Derrida focuses on the instability of these structures, emphasizing the gaps or the contradiction in meaning and interpretation. [Derrida]

### 3.3. Social Systems Theory

*Systems Theory* in Sociology looks at how different parts of a system interact and form a whole. For example, Luhmann views society as a complex set of communications and interactions, where even opposing elements are part of the system's overall functioning. [Luhmann]

### 3.4. Paradoxical Intention

In Psychology, the *Paradoxical Thinking* [Frankl] involves recognizing and integrating contradictory thoughts or behaviors. The method encourages patients to actively engage in the very behaviors they fear, in order to reduce the anxiety associated with those.

## 4. Applications in Contemporary Contexts

### 4.1. Migrations: Acculturation

In today's Western multicultural societies [Vani, Mangan], shared values of locals coexist with the unique and different cultural practices of migrants, leading to various individual outcomes. [Berry] *Acculturation*,<sup>11</sup> which results from intercultural contact, offers four different outcomes in varying degrees: integration, assimilation, separation, and marginalization.

Let us apply a neutrosophic framework. *Integration* (two-way exchange process) involves engaging with and identifying with both cultures. *Assimilation* (one-way exchange process) entails adopting the host country's culture while rejecting one's heritage culture. *Separation* (zero-way exchange process) involves identifying with one's heritage culture and interacting solely with one's own group. *Marginalization* (minus-way exchange process) represents a (quasi)total lack of identification with both cultures.

Considering the growing significance of global migrations, and the pivotal role workplace integration plays in adaptation, there's a pressing need for focus on the socialization process<sup>12</sup> of migrants within organizations, not only in culture.<sup>13</sup>

One could expand upon Benson's approach [Benson], which is rooted in a dynamic understanding that an organization is shaped by historical processes of social construction, which is

<sup>10</sup> Knox, T. Malcolm. "Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel". Encyclopedia Britannica, 23 Apr. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georg-Wilhelm-Friedrich-Hegel>. Accessed 29 May 2024.

<sup>11</sup> Berry J. W. (1990). "Psychology of acculturation." In J. Berman (Ed.), "Cross-cultural perspectives: Nebraska Symposium on Motivation", Vol. 37, 201–234. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

<sup>12</sup> McGahan A. M. (2020). "Immigration and impassioned management scholarship." *Journal of Management Inquiry* 29(1), 111–114. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1056492619877617>

<sup>13</sup> Omanović, V., & Langley, A. (2023). "Assimilation, Integration or Inclusion? A Dialectical Perspective on the Organizational Socialization of Migrants." *Journal of Management Inquiry* 32(1), 76–97. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10564926211063777>

in constant move. Benson formalized<sup>14</sup> four key principles of analysis (social construction, context, contradiction, and praxis), which - with neutrosophy as tool - can each be further subdivided into various facets.

In any cross-cultural process, a meta-analysis of adjustment processes is necessary,<sup>15</sup> and an insightful instrument is provided by a neutrosophic standpoint that could uncover various factors, in the given case - factors that could alleviate the inequalities migrants encounter in socialization.

#### 4.2. Ethics: Pro-choice vs. Pro-life

The Pro-choice and the Pro-life options are two contradictory viewpoints, mostly reduced to a total opposition. A neutrosophic view over their shared goals might suggest a possible foundation for constructive dialogue and collaborative efforts.

##### 4.2.1. Pro-choice movement

The *Pro-choice* movement can be traced back to the early 20th century, with activists like Margaret Sanger advocating for women's access to contraception, and founding the American Birth Control League<sup>16</sup> in 1921. Around 1970, significant legal challenges and efforts emerged to reform restrictive abortion laws in the United States. Organizations such as the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws [NARAL], founded in 1969, were instrumental in advocating for women's right to choose. The pivotal moment for the Pro-choice movement came with the Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*<sup>17</sup>, which extended the constitutional right to privacy to a woman's decision to have an abortion, decision that galvanized Pro-choice and Pro-life activists. Today, the Pro-choice movement often intersects with other social movements, including LGBTQ+ rights.

##### 4.2.2. Pro-life movement

The *Pro-life* movement originated in Catholic opposition to Pro-choice movement in the 1950s [Munson]. In response to the growing feminist movement and efforts to liberalize abortion laws, Pro-life groups formed structured organizations, e.g. National Right to Life Committee in 1968 [NRLC]. In the years following *Roe v. Wade* trial, the Pro-life movement expanded its strategies to include lobbying for restrictive abortion laws, dismantled for a moment by a new Supreme Court decision in the case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*<sup>18</sup>. The Pro-life movement gained lately significant political influence. While primarily focused on abortion, the Pro-life movement often intersects with other conservative causes, including opposition to euthanasia.

##### 4.2.3. In search of a common ground

Finding common ground between the *Pro-choice* and *Pro-life* positions<sup>19</sup> can be challenging due to their fundamentally opposing views on abortion. However, both sides can agree on the following statements: [Spitzer et al.]

<sup>14</sup> Benson J. K. (1983). "A dialectical method for the study of organizations." In Morgan G. (Ed.), "Beyond method: Strategies for social research", Sage Publications, 331-346.

<sup>15</sup> Nguyen, A.-M. T.D., Benet-Martínez, V. (2013). "Biculturalism and adjustment: A meta-analysis." *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* 44(1), 122-159. DOI: 10.1177/0022022111435097.

<sup>16</sup> Moses, Theodora R. "American Birth Control League". Encyclopedia Britannica, 20 Mar. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-Birth-Control-League>. Accessed 29 May 2024.

<sup>17</sup> *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973). <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/410/113/>.

<sup>18</sup> *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/505/833/>. Also, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1991/91-744>.

<sup>19</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Pro and Con: Abortion". Encyclopedia Britannica, 27 Dec. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/story/pro-and-con-abortion>. Accessed 29 May 2024.

- Both can support measures to reduce unintended pregnancies, such as comprehensive sex education and increased access to contraception.
- Both can encourage adoption as a viable option for women who do not wish to or cannot raise a child,
- Both can approve making the adoption process easier, affordable, less stigmatized.
- Both can agree on the importance of supporting women and families, meaning: better access to healthcare, longer parental leave, more affordable childcare.
- Both can agree on the importance of protecting women's safety.
- Both can work towards improving educational and economic opportunities for women, to empower choices about their reproductive lives.

#### 4.3. Psychology: Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy vs. Psychodynamic Therapy

*Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy*<sup>20</sup> (CBT) focuses on present thoughts and behaviors, while *Psychodynamic Therapy*<sup>21</sup> (PDT) explores unconscious processes and past experiences — both approaches aiming to alleviate psychological distress.

Although both therapies appear effective in addressing mental health concerns, they diverge in their theoretical orientations, goals, techniques, and duration. However, they can also complement each other when used together.

Let us engage in a quick comparison:

##### 4.3.1. Basics

- Rooted in the cognitive model, CBT focuses on the relationship between thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. It emphasizes identifying and challenging negative or maladaptive thought patterns and replacing them with more adaptive ones. *CBT is present-focused and goal-oriented.*
- Based on psychoanalytic principles, psychodynamic therapy explores how unconscious conflicts and early life experiences influence current thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. It aims to bring unconscious material into conscious awareness to promote insight and healing. *Psychodynamic therapy tends to be exploratory and insight-oriented.*

##### 4.3.2. Therapeutic Techniques

- Techniques in CBT include cognitive restructuring<sup>22</sup>, behavioral experiments, exposure therapy<sup>23</sup>, and skill-building exercises such as relaxation and problem-solving techniques.
- PDT techniques include free association<sup>24</sup>, dream analysis, interpretation of transference and countertransference, and exploring childhood experiences and relationships with significant others.

##### 4.3.3. Therapeutic Relationship

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<sup>20</sup> Moulds, M., Grisham, J., & Graham, B. (2022). "Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Anxiety." Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Psychology. Retrieved 29 May. 2024, from <https://oxfordre.com/psychology/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190236557.001.0001/acrefore-9780190236557-e-331>.

<sup>21</sup> Crits-Christoph, P. (1992). "The efficacy of brief dynamic psychotherapy: A meta-analysis." *American Journal of Psychiatry* 149(2):151–158.

<sup>22</sup> Identifying and challenging negative thoughts.

<sup>23</sup> Gradual exposure to feared stimuli.

<sup>24</sup> Encouraging clients to speak freely without censorship.

- The therapist and patient work together to set specific goals, and actively engage in homework assignments between sessions in CBT.
- In PDT, the therapist serves as a neutral interpreter and guide, facilitating exploration of deeper emotions and conflicts.

#### 4.3.4. Duration and Focus

- CBT is typically *short-term* (from a few weeks to several months) and focused on addressing specific symptoms or problems.
- PDT is usually *longer-term* (lasting several months to years) and focuses on exploring underlying emotional issues and patterns.

## 5. Conclusion

Neutrosophy offers a framework for understanding the wide interactions and the inébranlable connections of some concepts traditionally seen as opposites and their neutralities/indeterminacies. By applying this framework to the soft sciences, one gain deeper insights into the nuanced relationships between ideas, theories, and practices. This approach can lead to an integrative understanding of human knowledge and experience.

Neutrosophy transcends the limits and finds, in any field of knowledge, common ideas to uncommon schools of thought, and reciprocally: uncommon ideas to common schools of thoughts.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Acknowledgments:** In this section you can acknowledge any support given which is not covered by the author contribution or funding sections. This may include administrative and technical support, or donations in kind (e.g., materials used for experiments).

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Received: Mar 1, 2024. Accepted: May 26, 2024