

SKBU JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY
PEER REVIEWED**A Historical Perspective of the Nature of Metaphysics****Dr. Nabanita Bhowal****Abstract**

Aristotle's early philosophy, known as "metaphysics," was introduced by Andronicus around 50 B.C. His metaphysics covers several subjects, including the Aristotelian theory of the fourfold cause, the principle of contradiction, definitions, concepts of substance and logical essence, potentiality and actuality, and the concept of the unmoved mover. It also includes debates on Plato's theory of ideas, which highlights his unique perspective on reality and the peculiarities of his own metaphysics. In the history of philosophy, metaphysics has meant or stood for this first philosophy, whether possible or impossible. The medieval theologians formulated metaphysics as an admixture of revealed dogma and strains of philosophical thoughts found in Aristotle and Plato, regarded this as the only true knowledge and rejected any views that came into conflict with it. Modern rationalists like Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibnitz developed their first philosophy using the mathematical and deductive method, aiming to develop metaphysical systems in line with their fundamental ideas. Metaphysics has been a fundamental philosophical concept throughout history, considered a founding philosophy and a subject that underlies all historical accounts. Proponents of this first philosophy have considered it necessary and have not been completely destroyed by historical critique. Metaphysics has evolved into a new entity, using new vocabulary and methodologies. Aristotle saw it as realistic, as it represented the broadest general aspects of both the objective and subjective world. Medieval metaphysics was a dogmatic form of theology that contradicted science and research. Modern philosophers transformed it into *apriori* sciences, challenging it with British imperialists Locke and Hume. Scientific metaphysics emerged, generalizing knowledge about science and existential order. Metaphysical inclinations like phenomenology and existentialism sought identity in different realms of experience.