

A Study of Theoretical Perspectives in Ethical Dimensions

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Introduction:

Ethics is indeed an open book of moral values.

Ethics is a concern about something or someone other than ourselves and our own desires and self-interest. Ethics is also concerned with other people's interests, the interests of society, God's interests, ultimate goods, and so on. When a person 'thinks ethically', they give at least some thought to something beyond themselves. Ethics is not only about the morality of particular courses of action but also about the goodness of individuals and what it means to live a good life. Ethical Virtue is particularly concerned with the moral character of human beings. Ethics is the branch of philosophy that deals with right or wrong concepts. It defines principles of decent human conduct in life and various professions and endeavors. It can serve as a guide for dealing with difficult moral issues and conflicts.

Many more concepts than just the usual suspects of moral evaluation, such as 'right' and 'wrong' or 'good' and 'bad' have important moral dimensions; concepts for instance with which we judge others or reflect upon our own experience, like grief, sentimentality, wonder, admiration, pity, love, or humour can also be understood as important ethical concepts. The moral work was done at precisely the level of these kinds of concepts; it was not to be found in isolated decisions in particular moments, but in the work of attention, sustained by one's efforts to see things with clarity and justice.

A moral interest can help the work of attention because it gives us access to a vast reservoir of learning, thinking, and evaluating human situations and human lives; because literature involves imaginative effort and because works of literature can provide a form and a context in which to navigate the

moral possibilities of concepts like wonder, admiration, pity, love, and humour.

Branches of ethics:

i) Descriptive ethics:

Descriptive ethics is a form of empirical research into the attitudes of individuals or groups of people. In other words, this is the division of philosophical or general ethics that involves observing the moral decision-making process to describe the phenomenon.

ii) Normative ethics:

Normative ethics is that branch of moral philosophy or ethics, concerned with criteria of what is morally right and wrong. It includes the formulation of moral rules that directly affect human actions, institutions and ways of should be like.

iii) Metaethics:

Meta ethics refers to the nature of ethical terms and concepts and to the attempt to understand the underlying assumptions behind moral theories, therefore, it is the branch of ethics that seeks to understand the nature of ethical properties, statements, attitude and judgments.

iv) Applied ethics:

Applied ethics is a branch of ethics. It is ethics with respect to real- world actions and their moral considerations in the areas of private and public life, professions, technology and government.

Review of Literature:

The purpose of a review is to analyze critically a segment of published body of knowledge through summary, classification and comparison of prior research studies, reviews of literature and theoretical articles. The review of literature is helpful to the researcher to critically analyze the issues pertaining to research paper. There is a great scarcity of critical work done on ethical dimensions.

Significance of the Study:

Ethics are broadly the set of rules, written and unwritten that govern our expectations of our own and others' behavior. Ethics seeks to resolve questions of human morality by defining concepts such as good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime. Effectively, they set how we expect others to behave and why, while there is broad agreement on some ethical values, there is also a variation on how exactly values should be interpreted in practice.

Research Problems:

An ethical dilemma describes a conflict between two morally correct courses of action. There is a conflict between values and principles. The dilemma is that you would be doing something right and wrong at the same time and by taking one right course you will negate the other right course. Most ethical systems and our intuitive ethical sensitivity are focused on our responsibilities to people who are close by and can be directly affected by our actions because ethical problem is the foundation of its application in practical life.

Hypothesis:

The brief study about the nature of ethics clearly shows that it is concerned with human life and judges human behaviour from a normative point of view. In this approach Iris Murdoch giving a reputation as an ethical novelist, thus the present research study explores ethical dimensions and moral experience in Iris Murdoch's novels in terms of love, good and evil, selfishness, integrity, honesty, respect, personal responsibility, morals, fairness, value, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime. The techniques that she uses to evoke different dimensions of ethics in readers have been treated as a site for research attention by researchers.

Research Aims and Objectives:

In the present research work, the specific objectives are as per the following.

- To throw light on the concept of the Ethical Dimension.
- To create a theoretical framework of the ethical dimension
- To analyze and examine the ethics and moral values

- To find out critical views on the ethical dimension.

Research Methodology:

First, the researcher will make himself acquainted with the genre of ethical fiction. It is very necessary to know the brief history of the genre of ethical fiction from the early 17th century till date. The research methodology for this proposed research primarily focuses on the collection of information. The methodology may include publication research, interviews, surveys, and other research techniques, also it could include both present as well as historical information.

The present research paper focused on the Analytical, Interpretative, evaluative, and comparative research methodology.

Theoretical Perspective:

Morals and ethics are terms that describe how people decide what to do based on judgments of what is right and wrong. These terms are often used interchangeably, but they don't always refer to the same concepts. Morals are derived from beliefs that can be held by anyone, even by people who are irrational. Ethics, in the normative sense, are derived from rationality. Ethical conflicts can occur when different morals conflict with one another or when ethics and morals are out of balance. The word 'ethics' is derived from the Greek word ethos. Ethos means "custom or character". As originally used by Aristotle, it referred to a man's character or personality, especially in its balance between passion and caution. Today ethos is used to refer to the practices or values that distinguish one person, organization and society from others.

Ethics is a process of art and science. There are generally three philosophical approaches. When people talk about these areas, they are usually discussing an area of ethics known as normative ethics. Normative ethics includes some elements such as; utilitarian ethics deontological ethics and virtue ethics.

Utilitarianism:

Utilitarianism, first popularized by British philosophers Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill in the 19th century, is a theory that holds that the best way to make a moral decision is to look at the

potential consequences of each available choice; then, one should pick the option that either does the most to increase happiness or does the least to increase suffering. Utilitarianism, also known as consequentialism, is often summed up as a philosophy of "The greatest good for the greatest number."

Utilitarianism is a family of normative ethical theories that prescribe actions that maximize happiness and well-being for all affected individuals. The first ethical system in normative ethics, utilitarianism, is often equated with the concept of "the greatest good for the greatest number." The idea is that ethical decisions are made based on the consequences of the action, which is also called consequentialism. There are three main concerns that seem to arise when public relations professionals rely on utilitarian ethics to make decisions. First, rather than looking at the choice or action itself, decision-makers are forced to guess the potential outcomes of their choice in order to determine what is ethical. Second, utilitarian ethics also "presents questions of conflict with regard to which segment of society should be considered most important" in weighing the "good" or outcome. The third objection is that it is not always possible to predict the outcome of an action.

Deontology:

The deontological ethics is associated with the father of modern deontology, Immanuel Kant. He was known for the 'Categorical Imperative' that looks for transcendent principles that apply to all humans. The idea is that "human beings should be treated with dignity and respect because they have rights." Put another way, it could be argued that in deontological ethics "people have a duty to respect other people's rights and treat them accordingly." The core concept behind this is that there are objective obligations, or duties, that are required of all people. When faced with an ethical situation, then, the process is simply one of identifying one's duty and making the appropriate decision. This theory is related to respect ethics dimensions.

Virtue Ethics:

Virtue ethics states that only good people can make good moral decisions. Therefore, the best way to be moral is to constantly seek to improve oneself. Virtue ethicists list a number of qualities that they believe are universal, and that all cultures appreciate.

They include wisdom, prudence, loyalty, honesty, temperance, bravery, magnanimity, and justice. Virtue ethicists argue that if a person tries his best to embody these traits, then by definition he will always be in a good position to make moral judgments. Irish Murdoch has focussed on virtue ethics. In my research work, some novels are connected with virtue ethics, so the researcher will apply this theory.

These three theories of ethics (utilitarian ethics, deontological ethics, virtue ethics) form the foundation of normative ethics conversations. It is important, however, that public relations professionals also understand how to apply these concepts to the actual practice of the profession. Ethical discussion that focuses on how a professional makes decision, known as applied ethics, are heavily influenced by the role or purpose of the profession within society.

Humanism:

Humanism theorists, or human rights theorists, believe that every person is endowed with certain inalienable rights, such as the right to life, the right to own property, and the right to liberty. Humanism theorists, argue that these rights are self-evident, and would exist even if nobody believed in them. The reason that natural rights theorists hold these rights as self-evident is that they are essential to the flourishing of human happiness and the foundation of civil society. For example, they argue that without the right to own property, there is no incentive to create property and therefore society cannot advance. Based on this theory, humanism is vital to the future of society.

Realism:

The Literary realism movement started in the mid-nineteenth century in France and later empowered rest of the world. As the word suggests, 'realism: is an elastic and ambiguous term with two meanings. It refers generally to any artistic or literary portrayal of life in a faithful, accurate manner and unclouded by false ideals of the world. It is a theory to depict events in human life in a matter-of-fact straightforward manner. It is an attempt to reflect life 'as it actually is.' Iris Murdoch follows the realist pattern in her works.

Social contract theory:

Social contract theory says that people live together in society in accordance with an agreement

that establishes moral and political rules of behaviour. Some people believe that if we can live morally by our own choice because a divine being requires it. The Dimensions of Ethics offers a concise but wide-ranging introduction to moral philosophy. In a clear and engaging fashion, the scope of ethical theory, and explores central metaethical questions such as the issue of relativism, and the relationship between morality and religion. Five theoretical approaches, in each case provide a consideration of various objections that have been advanced as well as a sympathetic exposition of the core principles of each approach. Throughout researcher uses a wide range of examples, and integrates references to issues in applied ethics with discussions of ethical theory.

Religious Theory:

Religious ethics concerns teaching and practices of what is right or wrong, good or bad, virtuous or vicious from a religious point of view. Religious ethics is simply that one or more religious worldviews may be truth. Religions is the understanding responsibility for each other, to care for the vulnerable and to pursue justice. Most world religions hold that evil, illusion, greed and cruelty should not exist. Such a religious view of values might be correct in Iris Murdoch's novels, the theory will be applied for the research work.

Scope and Limitations:

The present research paper focused on the ethical dimensions for generating ethics. Contemporary ethical fiction is a relatively new genre and hence it has ample opportunity and scope for research.

Conclusion:

This research paper has served as a platform where all the elements of contemporary ethical dimensions, theoretical perspectives and branches of ethics are found, observed and justified.

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