

Abstract

Ethical Intuitionism According to Robert Audi

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Chapters:

Introduction: Presents a general framework of the study.

Preface: includes Robert Audi's Life and his most important writings and philosophical views.

Chapter I: Ethical Intuitionism and the most important its figures like: (Sedgwick– Moore– Broad- Prichard- Ewing).

Chapter II: Robert Audi's Moral Knowledge and its sources: (Perception, Consciousness, Reason, Memory and Testimony).

Chapter III: Robert Audi' the nature of moral intuitions and their characteristics.

Chapter IV: Robert Audi's Propositions and Ethical Beliefs.

Chapter V: Ethical duties between: "Kant", "Ross" and "Audi".

Conclusion of the Research:

First: Ethical Intuitionism has two trends:

- 1- Origin and establishment: the supporters of this trend assure that Moral Qualities like Goodness, Oughtness, Rightness and so on are identities that are not to define, analyze or reduce. They can only perceived through direct intuition. The supporters of this trend are like: Ewing, Moore, Prichard, Broad and others.
- 2- Modification and Development: the supporters of this trend assure the importance of Epistemic Justification for Ethical Intuitionism and its susceptibility to wrongness with abiding by some principles of intuitionists. Supporters of such a trend are like David Ross, Robert Audi and others.

Second: the Ethical Intuitionism for Robert Audi is characterized with its Moderate Vision combining the principles of Experientialists with that of Mentalists. This is clear in the following points:

- 1- Robert Audi did not reject any Source of Moral Knowledge which he limits in five sources: Perception, Mind, Consciousness, Memory and Testimony)

2- Robert Audi divided the Ethical Propositions into two types:

A- Directly Self-evident Ethical Propositions which are directly understood and justified in its content without the need of mediation.

B- Indirectly Self-evident Ethical Propositions which are understood and justified after reflecting on its content.

Then, Robert Audi tries to blend Kant's Categorical Imperatives with David Ross's Prima Facie Duties.

Third: the current study asserts that Ethical Intuitionism for Audi is a moderate vision as it accepts the Epistemic Justification of Moral Judgments without borrowing any mental ability or faculty especially from intuition. It also does so without claiming that these intuitions are indefeasible, or infallible or indubitable.

Fourth: Robert Audi's proposal contributes to solve the problem of the existence of Ethical Standards Appropriate to Moral Decisions. Doing so, Audi tries to reconcile the General Principles and Specific Cases to medium principles that achieve equilibrium between the principle and the case.

Fifth: Audi's proposal contributes to put ten moral principles working as Middle Axioms to reconcile the general principles with specific ones:

Non-injury, Veracity, Fidelity, Justice, Beneficence, Reparation, Self-Improvement, Gratitude, Respect and Enhancement and Preservation of Freedom.

Sixth: it has become clear for the researcher that Audi's views are more comprehensive and moderate than other views because they guide us how to make moral decisions through seeking Normative Completeness that is related to what we ought to do. They also do so through seeking Epistemic Completeness that is related to knowing the reason why we do something in this way.

Seventh: the study asserts that there is consent among Moral Intuitionists that the intuition means the direct perception of moral identities. However, we find no agreement among them about the main concept of the primary moral identity that we perceive through intuition. George Moore believes that Goodness is the primary moral identity that we perceive directly through intuition; but Alfred Ewing states that Oughtness is the primary moral identity. However, David Ross believes that Rightness is the main moral concept that we perceive through intuition. But Charles Broad sees that what we directly perceive through intuition is Fittingness.

Summary

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The current study asserts the importance of Ethical Intuitionism as one of the most important contemporary approaches to Ethics. It also focuses particularly on Ethical Intuitionism for Robert Audi. The significance of the study springs from answering the main question which the contemporary philosophers are unable to answer: Is it possible to present an Epistemic Justification for Moral Intuition. Robert Audi answers this question by focusing on two pivotal points which are Moral Epistemology and Normative Ethics.

The current study includes an introduction, preface, five chapters and a conclusion. The introduction includes a general framework for the study. The preface involves an overview of Robert Audi's life, his prominent writings and his philosophical views. Chapter One handles the meaning of Ethical Intuitionism and both of its classic and contemporary figures. Chapter Two discusses the sources of Moral Epistemology (Perception, Consciousness, Reason, Memory and Testimony). Chapter Three explores the nature and characteristics of Ethical Intuitionism. Chapter Four studies Propositions and Ethical Beliefs. Chapter five compares Kant's view of Ethical Duties to that of Ross and how Robert Audi tries to reconcile them.

The methodology of the study uses the analytical critical method and comparative method. Then, the conclusion comes to show the results of research as follows:

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