

E- Content of Philosophy
M.A. IIInd Semester
Paper- IV: Ethics-II

Unit-III (Lecture-I)

Language of Morals by R.M. Hare

Topic: Introduction

- R.M Hare is a Non- Cognitivist moral thinker.
- He has presented the theory of Prescriptivism in the field of Meta Ethics.
- In his book entitled “**Language of Morals**” in the beginning he has criticized and refused the theory of emotivism given by C.L.Stevenson.
- After this he has tried to establish his own theory of prescriptivism.

Topic: Basic assumption of Prescriptivism

- Ethical judgments are different from factual judgments.
- Ethical judgments are Prescriptive in nature.
- Rational methods can be used for the verification of ethical judgments.

Source:

1. Text Book : Language of Morals by R.M.Hare
2. Modern moral Philosophy by W.D.Hudson.

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Topic: Basic Characteristics of Ethical Judgment according to R.M.Hare

- Ethical judgments are non cognitive which means they are not descriptive in nature.
- Ethical judgments are prescriptive in nature,, whose aim is to prescribe certain actions, not to express the feeling and emotions of the moral doer. They also not create similar emotions in the mind of listener.
- Ethical judgments are universal or it can be said that universalizability is an important characteristic of moral judgment.
- Ethical judgments are **supervenient** in character, which means they express firstly its descriptive meaning and then (afterwards) prescriptive meaning.
- According to prescriptivism ethical judgments are rational judgments, whose verification is possible through objective or rational methods.

Topic: Descriptive and Prescriptive meaning

- Descriptive meaning of ethical judgment describes the facts contains in the ethical judgment.
- Prescriptive meaning guide us for the performance of certain actions or not to perform certain actions.

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Unit-III (Lecture-III)

Topic: Logical Relations

- According to R.M. Hare, here are logical relations among human conduct and moral judgments.
- It means to say that if we correctly understand the meaning of ethical judgment then we are logically bound to act accordingly, as these two have logical relations among them.
- He further explains that if we do not act according to the moral judgment than in that case there can be two possible cases:

The first one is that either we do not know/understand the correct meaning of ethical judgment or we are physically or mentally not able to do so. If we know the correct meaning of ethical judgment and don't have any physical or mental boundation then it shows that we are morally weak persons who do not follow ethical norms or it shows moral weakness of moral doer.

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Unit-III (Lecture-IV)

Topic: Concept of Universalizability

- R.M. Hare accepts the concept of universalizability with reference to the ethical judgement.
- According to the concept of Universalizability ethical norms/Principles are universal in nature and equally applicable on each and every individual in the similar circumstances.
- Hare says that concept of Universalizability is a logical maxim which is applicable on each and every individual.
- Immanual Kant also accepts the Principle of Universality but there is a difference between the two. According to Kant, concept of Universality is a moral law while for Hare it is a logical law.

Topic: Methods for the verification of Ethical Judgment

- According to Hare, ethical judgments are rational judgment. Consequently, it can be verified by using rational methods.

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2. Modern moral Philosophy by W.D.Hudson.