

College Writing II

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Introduction

Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher, established Kantianism, a normative ethical philosophy. In moral decision-making, this paradigm emphasizes the value of reason, autonomy, and respect for individuals. Moral principles, according to Kant, are rooted in rational beings as independent and self-governing persons. The theory is founded on two fundamental principles: the Categorical Imperative and the Universalizability Principle. According to the Categorical Imperative, we must only act in ways that could be rationally willed to be universal rules. According to the concept of universalizability, a moral principle must be applied to all rational creatures in comparable situations. This essay will examine Kantianism's major principles and arguments, as well as present a practical illustration of the theory's applicability in real-life ethical circumstances, and finally reflect on the adequacy of the theory for moral reasoning.

Main Viewpoints of Key Philosophers:

The primary philosopher linked with Kantianism is Immanuel Kant. Moral principles, according to Kant, are rooted in rational beings as independent and self-governing persons. Rational beings can think for themselves and are not bound by the whims of their passions or desires. As a result,

people can make moral decisions based on reason and obligation rather than self-interest or pleasure. Furthermore, Kant maintains that moral law is universal and necessary. The moral rule is founded on the fundamental character of rational beings, not on the specific circumstances of a situation or the special goals of a person.

According to Kantianism, moral norms must be founded on reason and the nature of rational beings. Kantianism revolves around the Categorical Imperative. The Categorical Imperative is a moral principle that asserts that we must only act in ways that can rationally be willed to be universal rules. Kant thought that this concept is founded on logic and applies to all rational beings. The Categorical Imperative is often known as the "supreme principle of morality" because it is the guiding concept for all moral decisions.

The notion of universalizability is another essential element in Kantianism. A moral principle, according to this principle, must be relevant to all rational persons in identical situations. For instance, if lying is wrong in one context, it must be wrong in all situations with the same conditions. This principle contributes to the consistency and fairness of moral norms.

Kantianism also emphasizes the value of autonomy and respect for individuals. Individuals' autonomy is defined as their ability to make their own reasoned decisions. Individuals must be able to choose freely and logically, according to Kant, hence autonomy is a fundamental prerequisite for moral decision-making. Respect for individuals is another essential element of Kantianism. Individuals must be viewed as ends in themselves, rather than merely as tools for an

objective, according to this notion. This indicates that people should never be viewed as mere tools for the advantage of others, but should always be treated with dignity and respect.

Main Terms and Arguments:

Kantianism revolves around the Categorical Imperative. It is a moral principle stating that we must only act in ways that may be rationally willed to be universal laws. The Categorical Imperative is founded on logic and applies to all rational beings. The Categorical Imperative has three formulations, according to Kant:

The Formula of Universal Law: "Act only according to that maxim by which you can at the same time that it should become a universal law."

According to this interpretation of the Categorical Imperative, we should only behave following maxims that we may rationally wish to become universal laws. In other words, we should only act in ways that we are willing to tolerate.

Kantianism offers a persuasive and logical method of moral reasoning that is based on the concepts of rational autonomy and the categorical imperative. Its emphasis on the inherent worth of all individuals and the need of treating others as ends in themselves, rather than merely as means to a purpose, connects with many people's intuitive understandings of what is morally right and wrong.

However, Kantianism is not without its critics and obstacles. One of the most prevalent criticisms leveled at the theory is that its implementation can be overly strict and inflexible. For

example, the absolute nature of the categorical imperative can occasionally lead to severe moral quandaries in which there is no clear solution that meets the imperative in every aspect.

Furthermore, others claim that Kantianism lacks clear instructions on how to balance opposing moral duties. For example, how can we balance the obligation to preserve individual autonomy with the duty to protect others or advance the larger good? Within the paradigm of Kantianism, these are challenging questions with no simple answers.

Furthermore, Kantianism may fail to account sufficiently for the importance of emotions and human ties in moral decision-making. Emotions and relationships can be important in our moral thinking, but Kantianism downplays their value in favor of abstract principles and laws.

Despite these difficulties, I believe that Kantianism is a helpful approach to moral reasoning, and that its emphasis on individual autonomy and the inherent worth of all individuals provides a solid foundation for ethical decision-making. However, I believe it is equally vital to recognize the theory's limitations and to be open to alternative ways that may better address particular moral quandaries or problems. Finally, I believe that in complicated moral situations, a nuanced and flexible approach to moral reasoning guided by many ethical frameworks is most likely to produce the greatest results.

Finally, Kantianism is a normative ethical theory based on the concept of obligation and the categorical imperative. This theory holds that activities are morally correct if they are performed out of a sense of obligation and are universalizable. Furthermore, Kantianism emphasizes the significance of honoring persons' dignity and individuality.

In practice, a Kantian would address an ethical quandary by assessing the universalizability of the action and questioning if it can be consistently applied to everyone without contradiction.

This technique could be useful in a variety of situations, such as commercial or medical ethics.

However, Kantianism has been chastised for its rigidity and inability to handle certain moral quandaries. In addition, the theory does not provide a clear means to reconcile competing moral obligations, which might be problematic in some real-life situations.

While Kantianism has its advantages, it is not a complete ethical system. When using it to assist moral decision-making, it is critical to understand its principles and limitations.