

Final Paper Proposal

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In this paper, I would like to focus on the analyze the place of self-existence/ self-being in Kant's moral theory. The first part of my thesis is to introduce and explain Kant's moral theory in detail. Kant builds his moral theory based on categorical imperatives. The categorical imperative, according to Kant, is a command that applies unconditionally to all rational creatures without reference to any ends that these creatures might have. Then he gives two famous formula: the formula of universal law and the formula of humanity. the formula of universal law supposes that an action is morally permissible if and only if its maxim is universalizable; the formula of humanity points out that we should not treat others as mere instruments or purpose for achieving our own goals.

Then, after fully explaining his theory, I want to explore the role and influence of "self-being" in it by specifically analyzing two examples: commit suicide and sacrifice myself to save others. Based on Kant's theory, commit suicide is an immoral behavior, but sacrifice ourselves to save others is a moral behavior. Both actions causes the death of ourselves, but the judgment are different. Besides, it need to be clarified the relationship of two formula, for example, if an action only conforms to one of the formulas, is it still moral? I think I will also give my explanation in my paper.

Finally, since in this paper I am more concerned with analyzing Kant's theory and developing my own thinking on the particularity of "self-being" in it, and I will not directly provide support or refutation of his theory, my paper will not have any objections of my arguments and my responses.