

What do you understand by aesthetic judgement,
Kantian notion of aesthetic judgement.

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INTRODUCTION.

Judgement in aesthetics has been an issue that needs to be resolved. Making judgement about anything is always very herculean because there is a mingling of the subjective and objective views. Sometimes the judgements we make by asserting a thing to be good could be judged by others to be bad.

Aesthetic Judgements also involves making evaluation on aesthetical discourse or on artistic enterprise or values.

Hence, we would give a detailed understanding of aesthetic judgement and make particular emphasis on Kantian

notion of aesthetic judgement.

Classification of Terms.

Aesthetics :- A discipline that focuses on artistic contexts and values; it is the philosophy of appreciation of beauty. It is also regarded as a systematic attempt to interpret and analyse the nature of art.

Judgement:- The ability to assert something as good or bad, right or wrong based on certain criteria or inference.

Aesthetic Judgement.

Aesthetic Judgement has been defined in various ways. Some people define aesthetic judgement as ascertaining a verdict on a work of art. These assertions can be negative or positive. Moreover, it is made by one who have undergone aesthetic education on a work of art and must have an aesthetic attitude.

Aesthetic judgement is also defined as ascertaining the positive or negative, usefulness or uselessness, the importance or neglect of an artwork, when the

individual has undergone series of inferences aesthetically and a thorough aesthetical evaluation through defined criteria for making judgement aesthetically.

This implies that for one to make an aesthetic judgement of any work of art, there must be a display of aesthetic attitude through which one goes on to make an aesthetic evaluation of the artwork, making use of a defined procedure for such aesthetic judgement.

Kantian Notion of Aesthetic Judgement.

Kantian notion of aesthetic judgement is found in his work Critique of judgement. In his critique, he made particular emphasis on the notion of beauty. He tried to explain the basis for which something is said to be beautiful. This implies the necessary criteria required before something is judged to be beautiful.

In explaining the judgement of beauty, Kant posited the following qualities or attitudes towards judgement of beauty:

1. Disinterestedness: Kant emphasizes that the judgement of beauty should be disinterested, meaning that it should

not be influenced by personal desires, interests, or any expectation of utility. A beautiful object is appreciated purely for its own sake, not for what it can offer or achieve.

2. Universality:- Kant argues that for something to be considered to be beautiful, it must be judged as such by all rational beings universally. Hence, for something to be truly beautiful, it should appeal to everyone, regardless of personal taste or preferences.

3. Free from Concepts:- The judgement of beauty is independent of any determinate concepts or rules. It is a subjective feeling of pleasure that arises from the form and arrangement of the object rather than from any specific features or concepts it possesses.

Purposive without Purpose

4. Aesthetic Judgement:- This implies that beautiful things tend to be purposive but without purpose. Kant affirms that it is in the nature of beautiful things to behave as if they are purposive but intrinsically they have no definite purpose.

ARGUMENT OF KANT

To buttress his argument, Kant went further to give answer to assumption made from his arguments. He called them moments.

Moment (quality) (disinterested pleasure)

1. The first Moment :- This is the moment of disinterestedness. Kant defines two types of interest which are the way of sensation and the way of concept. For Kant, Judgement of beauty is based on the feeling of pleasure that is disinterested, this means that it is not driven by any desire or practical interest. Pleasure hence comes from contemplation of the object and not for any personal gain.

2. The Second Moment (Universality) :- This has to do with Universal Validity. Judgement is made with the sense that others should also agree with our judgement. There is a claim of universal validity in judgment of taste despite the subjective bases of aesthetics.

3. The Third Moment (Relation) :- Kant describes the purposiveness without purpose. It highlights the perceived purposiveness without any actual purpose in beautiful objects.

THREE & FOURTH MOMENTS

4. The Fourth Moment (Modality): - Kant explains that the necessity in judgment of taste refers to a felt necessity rather than an objective one. When we judge something to be beautiful, we expect others to share our judgement and believe they should agree with it.

CONCLUSION:

Aesthetic Judgement is an aspect of aesthetics which has spurred various arguments among philosophers who disagree on what should be the criteria for the judgement of art. Kant's idea of aesthetic judgment may not be exhaustive or in agreement with other philosophers but it was able to lay a pathway for further arguments/study.