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# **Human Interface: Types of Judgments, Prerequisite for Ethical scrutiny, Meta Ethics, Applied ethics, Normative-Descriptive ethics**

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# Outline:

- “ Types of Judgments

- “ Areas in Study of Ethics

- . S1:Meta-Ethics / Critical Ethics
- . S2: Applied Ethics
- . S3: Normative vs. Descriptive Ethics
- . Ethics vs. Morality?
- . Legality vs. Morality

- “ Preconditions for Ethical Scrutiny

- . Pc1: Free Will
- . Pc2: Knowledge
- . Pc3: Voluntary Action

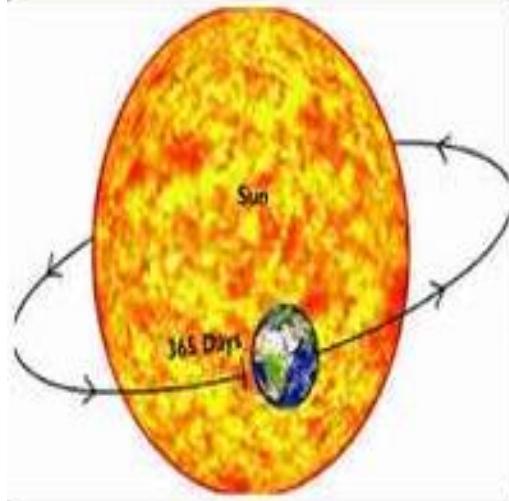
- “ Case study:

- “ Reference; <https://mrunal.org/2015/09/e1p1-meta-ethics-judgement-types-freewill-knowledge-normative-ethics.html>

- ” First part would be Ethics and Human interface- further subdivided into three articles
- ” **E1/P1:** Types of Judgments, Pre-requisite for Ethical scrutiny, Meta Ethics, Applied ethics, Normative-Descriptive ethics.
- ” **E1/P2:** Theories of Ethics: virtue ethics, deontological vs. teleological ethics, utilitarianism, hedonism, epicureanism, egoism, conduct ethics etc.
- ” **E1/P3:** Values, Role of family-society-educational institutions in inculcating values, ethics and private and public relationships.

# 3 Types of Judgments

## Factual



## Aesthetic



## Moral



- “ 1.Factual or Epistemological Earth rotates around Sun.  
Whether you test or an alien species tests, the fact will remain the same. There are only two outcomes: True / False
  - “ They’re not morally right or wrong. They’re morally empty, they’re “amoral”.
- 
- “ 2.Aesthetic Judgment  
Concept of beauty, taste, color, sensualities.
  - “ One person may like red color the other person may like blue color.
- 
- “ 3.Moral Judgment
  - “ Our sense of good/bad/right/wrong.

## Question: Are these three judgments inter-related?

- “ Traditional thinkers considered them one and same i.e. what is ‘true’ (factual) is ‘beautiful’ (aesthetic) and therefore it is Good (moral). Something like Satyam-Shivam-Sundaram.
- “ They believed, just as facts are not ‘dependent’ on us, the morals are not dependent on us. The morals are created by the God.
- “ Now we don’t see things in the same manner. Consider following question: Was Amitabh involved in Bofors case? (Factual judgment)
- “ If you’re a bigB fan, you’d say “no he can’t be involved because he is a ‘good’ guy (Moral judgment). And you’d say this without verifying the facts. So, you’ve internal inconsistency- you like this guy, so you can’t believe he can be bad.
- “ Similar case about Sanjay Dutt’s involvement in 1992 bomb blasts.

# 3 Areas in Study of Ethics



# Meta-Ethics / Critical Ethics

- ” If we steal, is it “good” thing? That is an example of ethical question.
- ” What is “good”? That is meta-ethical question. In other words, Meta-ethics is one ‘step’ above ethics.
- ” If you begin evaluating the ethics itself, then it’s meta-ethics.
- ” Nature=> philosophy of nature => physics.
- ” Similarly here morality =>ethics => meta-ethics.

# Applied Ethics

- ” In subsequent lecture, we’ll discuss various theories of ethics. One such theory is Utilitarianism, which says if a decision leads to “maximum happiness for maximum people” then it’s an ethical decision.
- ” Now if we apply this utilitarianism theory to a specific field, then it’d become “Applied Ethics” examples,
- ” **Bioethics** step cell therapy is good or bad?
- ” **Environmental ethics** cutting trees and displacing the tribal for highway projects is good or bad?

# Normative vs. Descriptive Ethics

- ” Einstein’s equation is E=MC<sup>2</sup>, Should we use that equation or knowledge to build nuclear weapon?
- ” Newton’s third law: action and reaction are opposite. Should we use Newton’s third law to build a rocket or a gun?
- ” **Descriptive** describes “this is what’s happening.” **Normative** prescribes “what should be done or what ought to be done.”

- ” In the Imperialist age, white men enslaved Africans and sold them to American plantation owners, wherein they’re exploited in the most inhuman manner.
- ” It was wrong on part of the White men to exploit other humans for personal gains. No one should enslave another human being.

# Examples of Normative theories:

- ” Virtue ethics theory, the views of Plato and Aristotle
- ” Utilitarianism
- ” Nishkam Karmayoga (Gita)

” Reference: [https://mrunal.org/2015/09/e1p1-  
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