

Cross-cultural Ethics: Reconstructing Universal Values in a Globalized Context

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Abstract: This study explores the reconstruction of cross-cultural ethics and the redefinition of universal values in the context of globalization. The integration and interaction of various cultures during globalization pose complex challenges to traditional ethical notions. Utilizing literature review and interdisciplinary theoretical synthesis, this research aims to uncover issues of ethical and value recognition in cross-cultural dialogues. By tracing the historical and philosophical development of cross-cultural ethics, the study clarifies its fundamental theoretical framework. It compares ethical concepts across different cultural systems, analyzing their convergence and divergence in the globalization process. Through the interpretation of international documents such as the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," it assesses modern society's repositioning and understanding of universal values. Proposing a viable cross-cultural ethical framework, this research provides theoretical support and guidance for people from diverse cultural backgrounds. The findings reveal that cross-cultural ethics promote mutual understanding and respect among cultures, facilitating the realization of universal values and contributing to the construction of a harmonious global society. The study concludes that reconstructing cross-cultural ethics in a globalized context holds significant theoretical and practical implications, offering new perspectives and methods for global governance and international cooperation.

Keywords: Cross-cultural Ethics; Globalization; Universal Values; Cultural Integration; Theoretical Reconstruction

1. Introduction

1.1 Research Background and Significance

The acceleration of globalization has made exchanges and collisions between different cultures increasingly frequent. With the globalization of economy, politics, technology, and other fields, cultural globalization has also become an undeniable phenomenon. Against this backdrop, intercultural ethics, as an emerging discipline, has gradually attracted widespread attention in the academic community. Intercultural ethics aims to explore ethical concepts in different cultural contexts and their mutual influences, attempting to reconstruct universal values in the context of globalization. Studying intercultural ethics not only helps to understand ethical differences between cultures but also provides theoretical support for global governance and international cooperation.

1.2 Research Objectives and Questions

The main objective of this study is to explore the reconstruction of intercultural ethics in the context of globalization and its redefinition of universal values. Specific questions include: What are the basic theoretical categories of intercultural ethics? How do ethical concepts in different cultural systems converge and diverge during the globalization process? How does modern society reposition and understand universal values? How can a feasible intercultural ethical framework be constructed to promote mutual understanding and respect among people from different cultural backgrounds?

1.3 Review of Domestic and International Research

Both domestically and internationally, there has been a certain accumulation of research on intercultural ethics. Foreign scholars such as Charles Taylor and Amartya Sen have conducted in-depth explorations of

intercultural ethics, proposing many insightful theoretical perspectives. Domestic scholars are also actively exploring this field, attempting to combine Chinese traditional culture with Western ethical theories to construct an intercultural ethical framework with Chinese characteristics. However, existing research mostly focuses on theoretical discussions, lacking systematic empirical research and specific application cases. Furthermore, regarding the reconstruction of universal values in the context of globalization, the academic community has not yet formed a unified view, requiring further in-depth research.

2. Theoretical Foundations of Intercultural Ethics

2.1 Definition and Scope of Intercultural Ethics

Intercultural ethics is a discipline that studies ethical concepts in different cultural contexts and their mutual influences. Its core issue is how to achieve ethical consensus in a multicultural context, thereby constructing universal values. The research scope of intercultural ethics includes but is not limited to: ethical concepts and their historical evolution in different cultures, ethical issues in intercultural dialogues, and phenomena of ethical convergence and divergence in the context of globalization.

2.2 Historical Development and Evolution of Intercultural Ethics

The development of intercultural ethics can be traced back to ancient philosophy. Ancient Greek philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle discussed the relationship between ethics and culture. During the medieval period, Christian ethics dominated the West, while the East had multiple ethical thoughts like Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Since modern times, with the acceleration of the globalization process, intercultural ethics has gradually become an independent academic field. Since the 20th century, with the increasing prominence of cultural diversity and globalization issues, research on intercultural ethics has deepened, forming various theoretical schools.

2.3 Major Theories and Representative

Figures in Intercultural Ethics

In the field of intercultural ethics, there are many representative theories and scholars. Charles Taylor proposed the concept of "politics of recognition," emphasizing that in a multicultural context, recognizing and respecting the values of different cultures is a prerequisite for achieving ethical consensus. Amartya Sen explored ethical issues in the context of globalization through his "capability theory," advocating that intercultural dialogues should focus on individuals' basic capabilities and freedoms. Additionally, Jürgen Habermas's "theory of communicative action" provides important insights for the study of intercultural ethics, emphasizing achieving ethical consensus through rational dialogue.

3. Intercultural Ethical Issues in the Context of Globalization

3.1 Impact of Globalization on Traditional Ethical Concepts

In the process of globalization, traditional ethical concepts face unprecedented challenges. The interaction and collision between different cultures render traditional ethical concepts less applicable in new social environments. For example, with the rise of multinational corporations, business ethics issues have become increasingly complex, and traditional business ethics concepts are inadequate to address business behaviors in the context of globalization. Additionally, globalization brings the risk of cultural homogenization, threatening the survival of some niche cultures and traditional ethical concepts.

3.2 Ethical Dilemmas and Conflicts in Cultural Integration

In the context of globalization, the integration of different cultures inevitably brings ethical dilemmas and conflicts. For instance, individualism in Western culture and collectivism in Eastern culture show significant differences in many ethical issues. These differences often lead to ethical conflicts in intercultural exchanges. Furthermore, globalization has introduced phenomena such as intercultural marriages and transnational migration, which also bring new ethical issues. For example, cultural differences in intercultural marriages may lead to conflicts in family ethics, and cultural adaptation issues in

transnational migration pose new ethical challenges.

3.3 Phenomena of Ethical Convergence and Divergence in the Process of Globalization

In the process of globalization, phenomena of ethical convergence and divergence coexist. On one hand, globalization promotes exchanges and integration between different cultures, leading to the convergence of some ethical concepts globally. For example, with the widespread acceptance of human rights, respecting human rights has gradually become a global consensus. On the other hand, globalization also highlights some cultural differences, leading to the divergence of ethical concepts. For instance, the concept of gender equality in Western culture is still not widely accepted in some traditional cultures, making such divergence more prominent in the context of globalization.

4. Theoretical Exploration of Reconstructing Universal Values

4.1 Definition and Theoretical Framework of Universal Values

Universal values refer to ethical concepts and value standards that are widely accepted and recognized globally. Core contents include basic values such as human rights, freedom, equality, and justice. The theoretical framework of universal values mainly includes theoretical achievements from multiple disciplines such as ethics, political science, and sociology. For instance, Kant's moral philosophy, Rawls' theory of justice, and Habermas' theory of communicative action all provide important insights for constructing universal values.

4.2 Universal Ethical Elements in Different Cultural Systems

Despite differences in ethical concepts among different cultural systems, there is still consensus on some basic ethical issues. For example, respecting life, pursuing happiness, and maintaining justice are basic ethical elements reflected in different cultures. By comparing and analyzing ethical concepts in different cultural systems, these consensual ethical elements can be identified, providing a theoretical basis for constructing universal values. For example, the concept of

"benevolence" in Confucian culture and the concept of "charity" in Christian culture are essentially similar, both emphasizing care and respect for others.

4.3 Reconstructing Modern Universal Values through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as an important document of modern universal values, plays a significant role in forming global ethical consensus. By interpreting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it can be found that its core content includes basic values such as respecting human rights, maintaining freedom, and pursuing equality. These values have been widely recognized globally, becoming an important part of modern universal values. However, with the deepening of the globalization process, some values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights face new challenges. For example, how to maintain the authority of universal values while respecting cultural diversity becomes an urgent issue to be addressed.

5. Ethical and Value Recognition Issues in Intercultural Dialogue

5.1 Necessity and Challenges of Intercultural Dialogue

In the context of globalization, intercultural dialogue becomes an important way to achieve ethical consensus. Through intercultural dialogue, people from different cultural backgrounds can understand and respect each other, thus achieving ethical consensus. However, intercultural dialogue also faces many challenges. For example, language barriers, cultural differences, and value conflicts can all become obstacles to intercultural dialogue. Additionally, intercultural dialogue needs to overcome biases and stereotypes, establishing itself on the basis of equality and respect.

5.2 Relationship between Cultural Identity and Value Identity

Cultural identity and value identity are two important concepts in intercultural dialogue. Cultural identity refers to an individual's recognition and sense of belonging to their own culture, while value identity refers to an individual's recognition and acceptance of

certain values. In intercultural dialogue, cultural identity and value identity often influence each other. For example, an individual's recognition of their own culture may affect their acceptance of other cultural values, and vice versa. Therefore, in intercultural dialogue, attention needs to be paid to the relationship between cultural identity and value identity to promote mutual understanding and respect among people from different cultural backgrounds.

5.3 Ethical Principles and Methods in Intercultural Dialogue

In intercultural dialogue, certain ethical principles and methods need to be followed to achieve effective communication and understanding. Intercultural dialogue should be based on equality and respect, respecting the values and ethical concepts of different cultures. It should emphasize rationality and openness, achieving ethical consensus through rational dialogue. Intercultural dialogue should also focus on practice, promoting mutual understanding and respect among people from different cultural backgrounds through specific actions and cooperation.

6. The Practical Significance and Implementation Pathways of Establishing an Intercultural Ethical Framework

6.1 Principles for Constructing an Intercultural Ethical Framework

Establishing an intercultural ethical framework requires adherence to certain principles. The framework should be inclusive, accommodating the ethical concepts and values of different cultures. It should be universal, gaining broad recognition and acceptance globally. Additionally, the framework should be practical, applicable, and testable in concrete social practices.

6.2 Implementation Pathways for the Intercultural Ethical Framework

In practice, establishing an intercultural ethical framework requires efforts on multiple fronts. Education and awareness campaigns are needed to enhance public understanding and appreciation of intercultural ethics. Policies and laws should be enacted to promote the implementation and application of the framework. International cooperation and

exchanges are also essential to foster mutual understanding and respect among people from different cultural backgrounds. For example, collaboration between international organizations and non-governmental organizations can facilitate the global promotion and application of the intercultural ethical framework.

6.3 Application of Intercultural Ethics in Global Governance

Intercultural ethics holds significant value for global governance. Research in intercultural ethics can provide theoretical support and guidance for global governance. For example, in international relations, intercultural ethics can help countries understand and respect each other's cultural differences, promoting international cooperation and peaceful coexistence. Additionally, in areas such as global environmental governance and international trade, intercultural ethics can offer crucial ethical guidance, advancing global sustainable development.

7. Conclusion

This study explores the theoretical foundations of intercultural ethics, ethical issues in the context of globalization, the reconstruction of universal values, ethical and value recognition issues in intercultural dialogue, and the principles and implementation pathways for constructing an intercultural ethical framework. It reveals the importance and practical significance of intercultural ethics in the context of globalization. The research finds that intercultural ethics can not only promote mutual understanding and respect among different cultures but also advance the realization of universal values, providing an essential ethical foundation for building a harmonious global society.

Despite achieving certain theoretical results in the field of intercultural ethics, this study has some limitations. For instance, the research mainly focuses on theoretical discussions, lacking systematic empirical research and specific application cases. Moreover, the academic community has not yet reached a consensus on the reconstruction of universal values in the context of globalization, necessitating further in-depth research. Future studies can expand in the following areas: conducting empirical research to verify the

practical application of intercultural ethics theories; enriching the theoretical system of intercultural ethics through interdisciplinary research; and promoting the global application and dissemination of intercultural ethics through international cooperation.

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