

Analysis on the Interpretive Dimension and Value Orientation of Modern Ecological Philosophy

Jiayi Liu

College of Marxism, Chang'an University, Xi'an, 710064, China

Abstract: Modern ecological philosophy means ecological philosophy, which has different dimensions and value orientation, so it is necessary to study it. Therefore, the interpretation dimension and value orientation of modern ecological philosophy are proposed. From the two dimensions of coordinated development of human and environment, economic development and environmental protection, the modern ecological philosophy is interpreted. From the three aspects of the intrinsic value orientation, external value orientation and system value orientation of modern ecological philosophy, the value orientation of modern ecological philosophy is analyzed. As for the analysis of the value orientation of modern ecological philosophy, the survey results show that people's recognition of the proposed analysis method is more than 20% higher than the traditional analysis method.

Keywords: Modern ecological philosophy; Interpretive dimension; Value orientation

1. Introduction

Modern ecological philosophy is not only a new natural philosophy that emphasizes the whole rather than parts, but also an ecological worldview [1]. In this correlation, people have different understanding of the existence of nature and the ecological relationship between man and nature. Due to the reality and seriousness of ecological problems, the understanding is necessary and reasonable. Yu Zhengrong believes that "ecological philosophy is a theory that studies the basic issues of the interaction between man and nature from the perspective of extensive correlation, which is formed by expanding from the ecology of the relationship between biology and environment to the study of the universal relationship between human society and nature" [2]. Therefore, the reason why modern ecological philosophy says "new" is that ecological philosophy views the existence and change of nature from the perspective of the relationship between man and nature. "relationship" is the central discourse of ecological philosophy, and "harmony" or "harmony" is the basic feature of ecological philosophy [3]. In ecological philosophy, holism and organic theory are the basic methods [4]. Of course, ecological philosophy is not only about the overall relationship between life and environment in nature, but also about the relationship between man and nature, the impact of man's activities on nature, and the "self-consciousness" of man as a whole in ecology. According to Donald Walter, "ecology should not only describe the relationship between organisms and their surroundings, or explain how things work, but must explain

how they came to be the way they are - why and how they came to be the way they are" [5]. From the perspective of the self-reflection of the whole ecological, ecological philosophy goes far beyond the direct concern for environmental protection. Philosophers and scientists have studied it extensively to emphasize its deeper ecological significance. Therefore, it is of great significance to analyze the interpretive dimension and value orientation of modern ecological philosophy for playing the role of modern ecological philosophy.

2. Interpretation of Modern Ecological Philosophy from Different Dimensions

2.1. Modern ecological philosophy should be interpreted from two dimensions, namely, harmonious development between human and environment, economic development and environmental protection. And the modern ecological philosophy is elaborated from these two dimensions.

Ecological philosophy is the product of rational reflection on traditional industrial civilization [6]. From the height of civilization reconstruction, the status of man, the "natural" phenomenon of man and the harmonious relationship between man and nature are re-established. Man is a part of nature, nature is human's inorganic body, man lives by nature. Mankind must remain humble in the face of nature and share a common destiny with other species. The relationship between man and nature is not the relationship between consumption and being consumed; not the relationship between conquest and being conquered;

it is not a relationship of ruling and being ruled, but one of mutual benefit and harmonious coexistence. If we are to satisfy human's local interests, short-term interests, and never-ending desires, we will neglect people's dependence on nature, make the two opposite, put human beings above nature and unscrupulously conquer nature and dominate nature. Turning the nature into inexhaustible raw material warehouses and free-spirited trash cans will lead to depletion of global resources, imbalance of ecological environment, and ultimately threaten the survival and development of human beings.

The ecological philosophy pursues the civilized realm of harmony between man and nature, not only the quality of the population, the conservation of resources and the coordinated development of the ecological environment, but also the equal and harmonious coexistence between people. Ecological philosophy emphasizes not only the realization and maintenance of intergenerational equality among contemporary people, groups, nations and countries, but also the achievement of intergenerational equality between generations and generations, and equality within the generation. Intergenerational equality emphasizes that contemporary people cannot destroy the natural ecological environment and social ecological environment on which human beings depend for survival and development for the immediate local interests, thus jeopardizing the survival and development of future generations. All human beings on the earth should enjoy the rights and obligations of sharing interests, sharing responsibility, and equal opportunities in the relationship between man and nature.

2.2. Attaching equal importance to economic development and environmental protection

Economic development and environmental protection also have contradictory unity to a certain extent [7]. First of all, economic development and environmental protection are contradictory. If you want to develop the economy, you must definitely exploit resources, it will lead to a decline in environmental quality. If you protect the environment, it will lead to imbalances in economic development and will not promote economic development rapidly. This is mutually antagonistic. Secondly, economic development and environmental protection are mutually reinforcing and interdependent. The two are mutually unified. To promote economic development, we must protect the environment to a certain extent, and have a good ecological environment as a guarantee, so as to achieve sustainable economic development. The protection of the environment also requires a large amount of financial support, especially the investment in technology and finance, so that the improvement of the ecological environment can be achieved.

3. Analysis of the Value Orientation of Modern Ecological Philosophy

According to modern ecological philosophy, not only people have value, but also life and nature have value, including its intrinsic value, extrinsic value and system value [8]. Its value orientation analysis structure is shown in figure 1.

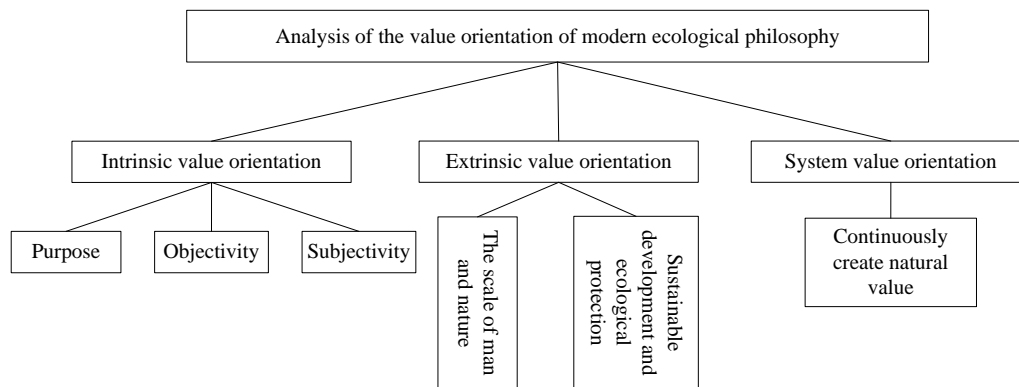


Figure 1. Value orientation analysis structure of modern ecological philosophy

As shown in figure 1, the value orientation of modern ecological philosophy is analyzed from three aspects: intrinsic value, extrinsic value and system value respectively, and the following contents are used to elaborate it in detail.

3.1. Analysis of the intrinsic value orientation of modern ecological philosophy

Modern philosophy holds that man is an purpose, and only man has an purpose, so only man has intrinsic value [9]. Ecological philosophy holds that human is the pur-

pose, and life and nature are the purpose, so it also has intrinsic value and deserves respect. The essence of the so-called "intrinsic value of modern ecological philosophy" is the intrinsic value of the natural world, which refers to the purpose of nature and life to live independently according to ecological rules. The intrinsic value orientation can be understood from three aspects.

Firstly, understanding the intrinsic value orientation of modern ecological philosophy from the purpose. Each organism is the center of value, has its own purpose, and has the ability and behavior to evaluate other things on the scale of this purpose, and to use other things as tool values. In other words, purposefulness means that the living subject pursues his own survival, and survival is the first priority of life and nature. The intrinsic value of the so-called modern ecological philosophy means that the natural ecology maintains its own survival and development on its own scale. Here, nature itself is the subject. It is a self-sustaining system as a community of life; it self-sustains and continuously reproduces according to a certain natural order, thereby realizing its own development and evolution. Survival and development are the purpose of all species, and showing the self-interest of survival and development. This purpose is the basis of intrinsic value. In principle, no value can exist completely independent of a consciousness being evaluated. Human beings evaluate things because of things themselves, not humans themselves. In the ecological environment, all living things are evaluators, and they all see themselves as a purpose. Even if evaluator disappears, other evaluators still exist, so there is still intrinsic value in the natural ecology.

Secondly, understanding the intrinsic value orientation of modern ecological philosophy from objectivity. "Intrinsic value" is synonymous with "objective value". Whether or not human beings exist or their preferences and attitudes, this objective value is eternal. The intrinsic value of nature refers to the value inherent in certain natural situations and does not need to be referenced by humans. The loon should continue to bark if anyone is listening to it. Natural value exists objectively. Before we find value, value exists in nature for a long time, and their existence precedes our understanding.

Thirdly, understanding the intrinsic value of modern ecological philosophy from the subjectivity. Traditional values believe that value is a relationship based on human subjectivity. Only the human has the subjectivity, can be the subject of evaluation activities. All non-human beings have no subjectivity, even if they are of value, they are valuable to human beings, and natural objects cannot be the subject of value. However, subjectivity is not unique to humans. Subjectivity is ubiquitous in the part of nature that has the complexity of organic organization. Subjectivity is the ability of the system to record the forces acting internally and externally on its state of existence in a

sensory form. Humans have no reason to believe that their subjectivity is the only subjectivity in the world. Nature also has value capabilities. There are seven levels of "capable of evaluation" on Earth, namely, humans with valuable capabilities, valuable animals, valuable creatures, valuable species, valuable ecosystem, the planet of value, and the nature of value. Nature is as active, dynamic, and valuable as human beings. Some scholars can start from the natural world as the main body of value and conclude that nature has intrinsic value. The intrinsic value of nature means that nature, like human beings, can be the owner of value, that is, the subject of value.

3.2. Analysis of the external value orientation of modern ecological philosophy

The external value orientation of modern ecological philosophy is the instrumental value orientation of nature. The value of natural tools lies in the availability of natural resources, the tolerance of environmental system and the carrying capacity of ecosystem. In the ecosystem community, man and nature have both interdependent instrumental value and independent intrinsic value. The external value orientation of modern ecological philosophy is embodied in the following two aspects.

Firstly, it is necessary to grasp the necessary tension between "human scale" and "natural scale". Traditional thinking and practice have obvious one-dimensionality. Taking the development of productivity as an example, people only pay attention to the one-way "conquest, transformation and domination" of nature, and lack of ecological environment for human survival and development. The conscious awareness of maintaining balance, such as protection, improvement and construction, ultimately defeats people and retaliates. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify what conditions to make the human scale or nature scale. Correctly grasping and utilizing the evolutionary rules of the ecological environment, consciously and actively coordinating and improving the complex relationship between man and nature, man and society, and man and himself, this will not only make the ecosystem more suitable for human survival and development, but also constantly meet the needs of the development of productive forces and promote the sustained, healthy and coordinated development of the economy and society; and the development of the economy and society can provide a solid material foundation for the effective improvement of the ecological environment, and create favorable material conditions for the co-evolution of man and nature.

Secondly, grasping the complex pattern between sustainable economic and social development and ecological environmental protection. Economic growth must be limited to the thresholds allowed by the ecological self-regeneration ability, the self-purification ability of the

environment, and the self-circulation ability of resources, and strive to achieve the best ecological and economic benefits with minimum resource consumption. Integrating ecological awareness into people's daily life, while satisfying basic needs, it raises the level of human needs: more pursuit of science, art, faith, aesthetics and spiritual life, thus realizing the free and comprehensive development of human beings. In other words, the pursuit of economic growth in isolation will inevitably lead to the decline of the ecological environment; the one-sided pursuit of ecological sustainability cannot solve the economic needs of human survival and development. Sustainable ecological optimization is the premise and condition, sustainable economic development is the foundation and means, and sustainable social progress is the goal and purpose. What humans pursue should be the comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable scientific development and harmonious progress of the "natural-economic-society" composite system.

3.3. Analysis of the system value orientation of modern ecological philosophy

System value is the nature of an ecosystem that can continuously create natural values. The theory of natural value is the core of Ralston's ecological philosophy [10]. With regard to the proof of the objectivity of natural values, from the time series of evolution, value has existed in nature for a long time, and human beings are only the latecomers of value evolution. The objective life of animals and plants in nature is preceded by human beings, while people evolved from objective life. Nature is an evolutionary ecosystem, and human beings are only a latecomer; the main values of the Earth's ecosystem have existed for a long time since they appeared. Nature is an objective value carrier. The ecological centralism ecological ethics completely sets the scale of human existence interests aside, and regards the preservation of the completeness, stability and beauty of the natural ecosystem as the ultimate goal of human behavior and the ultimate scale of human-to-natural moral behavior. The ecosystem has made various values fight in its arms, and it has be-

come more beautiful. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify under what conditions the human scale and the conditions are based on nature, correctly grasp and utilize the evolution law of natural ecological environment, and consciously and actively coordinate and improve the complex relationship of man and nature, man and society, and man and himself. This will not only make the ecosystem more suitable for the survival and development of human beings, but also continuously meet the needs of the development of productive forces and promote the sustained and healthy coordinated development of the economy and society. The development of the economy and society can provide a solid guarantee for the effective improvement of the ecological environment. The material basis creates favorable material conditions for the co-evolution of man and nature.

From a holistic point of view, the value of the system is ambitious, not completely manifested by an organic individual, nor can it simply combine the values of individuals, because the most important thing about systemic value is its creativity, In the process, the value of the tool and the intrinsic value can be transformed into each other. Each value is not an isolated existence, but a part of the overall value. "In a functional entirety, the intrinsic value is like a fluctuating particle, and the value of the tool is also like the fluctuation of the particle." Ralston sees the value as a constant transfer between individuals from the perspective of the system. As a result, evolution is the way to the top of the pyramid, and the ecosystem uses the resources to integrate the value of the tool and the intrinsic value, thus generating the value of the system. Thus, the entire natural system is beautiful, stable and harmonious.

4. Survey

For the analysis of the value orientation of modern ecological philosophy, in order to find out people's recognition of the proposed analysis method and compare it with the traditional analysis method, an investigation is conducted for different groups and multiple enterprises. The results are shown in table 1.

Table 1. Comparison of recognition of the two analysis methods

Survey content	Recognition/%	
	The proposed analytical approach	Traditional analytical approach
Intrinsic value orientation	98	76
Extrinsic value orientation	95	74
System value orientation	97	72

It can be seen from Table 1 that no matter which value is pointed, people's recognition of the proposed analysis method is more than 20% higher than the traditional analysis method, which indicates that the proposed analysis method is more recognized by people.

5. Conclusions

Modern ecological philosophy is the frontier and brand-new field of science and technology philosophy. The in-depth study of ecological philosophy is likely to bring new ideological liberation movement, provide intellectu-

al support for the construction of ecological civilization, and provide brand-new theoretical thinking for environmental protection, ecological restoration and caring for nature. Under the new historical conditions, the study of modern ecological philosophy not only strengthens the reflective and critical function of philosophy to maintain the balance of ecological system and promote the sustainable development of economy and society, but also provides a historical opportunity for the further expansion and deepening of Chinese philosophical research. One of the characteristics of philosophy is to reveal and design its relationship with the object world theoretically and practically through the effective integration and rational construction of the conceptual category system. From the present research status of the academic circle, it is necessary to examine a series of related categories of modern ecological philosophy and give an effective standard.

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