

An Exploration of Ecology from the Perspective of Pragmatism

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Abstract: Today's society is full of pragmatism and utilitarianism, so much so that many major issues of right and wrong cannot be treated correctly, and ecological problems are becoming more and more serious. This paper explores the characteristics of ecological outlook from the perspective of pragmatism and analyzes its potential to solve environmental problems and promote sustainable development. By combining the core concepts of pragmatism and ecological outlook, this paper expounds the application of ecological outlook from the perspective of pragmatism in practice, and puts forward suggestions for relevant policies and actions, so as to arouse more people's attention to ecological issues.

Keywords: Ecological Outlook; Pragmatism; Environmental Protection; Science; Interests

1. Introduction

Pragmatism and ecology, as two different theoretical paradigms, have both had a profound impact on the relationship between human society and the natural environment. Pragmatism emphasizes practical effects and practicality, while ecological outlook focuses on ecological balance and environmental protection. This paper will combine these two theories to explore the characteristics of ecological outlook from the perspective of pragmatism and its role in promoting sustainable development.

2. Background

Pragmatism is a philosophical and ethical perspective that uses practical effects and practicality as criteria for evaluating behavior and value. Pragmatism is concerned with the practical means and outcomes of problem solving, and how to achieve the goal. It emphasizes the importance of practical

experience and empirical research, and is committed to maximizing beneficial outcomes and minimizing adverse effects.

In the field of ethics, pragmatism values the consequences and utilitarian nature of actions, i.e., the evaluation and determination of moral behavior by maximizing happiness and minimizing suffering. In political philosophy, pragmatism emphasizes the practical effectiveness and efficiency of policies and decision-making aimed at solving social problems and promoting the public good. In addition, pragmatism also plays an important role in economics, emphasizing the maximization of utility and benefits to guide economic decision-making and resource allocation.

Because of the characteristic of "pragmatism, which seeks to maximize the beneficial results and minimize the adverse effects", human beings ignore the price that needs to be paid in the pursuit of immediate benefits. Or when pursuing the interests of the individual or a small collective, let more people and even all mankind pay for it. Pragmatist scholars are not confined to the state of society itself or the form it should be, but are more concerned with whether the current living environment meets the needs of the human beings who live there. If the current environment is not what human beings want, they listen to their inner voice and strive to transform it in the direction of their hearts [1]. Under the influence of immediate interests and the limitations of current science and technology, pragmatism pursues profits while making ecological problems more and more serious.

3. Characteristics of Ecological Outlook from the Perspective of Pragmatism

The pragmatic approach is not the pursuit of some unique outcome, but a positive attitude with a clear direction. This attitude does not focus on the original thing, principle, category, or presupposition of the necessary conditions;

Rather, it focuses on the end thing, the outcome, the effect, and the facts [2]. Pragmatism is a worldview that is in opposition to traditional philosophy [3]. The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism emphasizes the practical effect and feasibility of solving environmental problems. It emphasizes the role of scientific knowledge and technological innovation in environmental protection, and pursues the unity of sustainable development and economic benefits. Specific features include:

3.1 Scientific Basis

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism focuses on the application of scientific knowledge. It advocates relying on scientific research and technological progress to solve environmental problems, such as using new energy technologies to reduce carbon emissions, and adopting environmental monitoring technologies to protect ecosystems. In the process of satisfying the practical needs of social production and social life, while promoting the rapid development of science, mankind's understanding of science and its spirit is constantly deepening and expanding.

3.2 Economic Benefits

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism believes that environmental protection should be combined with economic benefits. It advocates a win-win situation for environmental protection and economic development through environment-friendly industrial development and ecological compensation mechanisms. The development of human scientific practice is influenced and restricted by the practice of producing material materials and the practice of dealing with social relations and life. However, the development of scientific practice, in turn, promotes the development and progress of the practice of producing material materials and the practice of handling social relations and life in the form of ideological concepts and material technology.

3.3 Sustainable Development

The ecological perspective from the perspective of pragmatism emphasizes the importance of sustainable development. It advocates the conservation and management of natural resources to ensure the quality of life

for future generations, on the basis of meeting the needs of the present. We should follow the law and avoid overdoing it when it comes to transforming nature and producing goods, especially when the consumption of these goods does not increase consumer satisfaction [4]. In the course of cultural development, as ecological issues gradually become more important, the humanistic ecological cultural model has begun to emerge. This cultural model aims to pursue "symbiosis", and its essence is a deep interpretive dialectic, with ecological thinking and ecological rationality at its core [5].

4. The Application of Ecological Outlook from the Perspective of Pragmatism

The concept of ecology from the perspective of pragmatism has a wide range of applications in practice, including policy making, environmental management and the promotion of sustainable development.

4.1 Policy Development

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism provides guidance for the formulation of environmental policies. Based on the results of scientific research and technological innovation, policymakers can formulate practical environmental protection policies to promote the coordinated development of the economy and the environment. Environmental regulation is one of the important ways for the government to improve the environmental protection behavior of enterprises [6]. As an important market-incentive-based environmental regulation, the purpose of environmental protection tax policy is to adjust the behavior of enterprises through market guidance, so as to improve China's environmental problems [7].

The Environmental Protection Tax Law of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the "Environmental Protection Tax") was promulgated on December 25, 2016 and came into effect on January 1, 2018. The implementation of this policy has brought new factors to the sustainable development of enterprises and provided new ideas for the study of sustainable economic development [8].

4.2 Environmental Management

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism emphasizes the role of scientific

management and technical support in environmental protection. Through environmental monitoring, data analysis, and risk assessment, the ecological perspective from a pragmatic perspective can help decision-makers better manage and protect ecosystems. For example, corporate sustainability refers to the ability of an enterprise to maintain a stable level of performance and a sustainable competitive advantage in the foreseeable future. At present, environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors have been widely used by the international community to assess the degree of sustainability of enterprises [9]. ESG is an investment philosophy and corporate measurement standard that does not focus on financial performance, but focuses on corporate environmental performance, social performance, and corporate governance performance [10].

4.3 Promotion of Sustainable Development

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism provides an important idea to promote sustainable development. Through the development of environment-friendly industries, the promotion of clean energy and the improvement of resource utilization, the ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism can promote the sustainable development of the economy and achieve the coordinated development of the environment and the economy.

Increasing R&D investment, promoting green technology innovation, and improving profitability are the keys to winning the favor of institutional investors and other market players [11]. The theory of sustainable development aims to carry out resource conservation from the economic and social levels, and on the premise of ensuring that the quality of life of social residents meets the relevant standards [12].

5. The Limitations of the Ecological View from the Perspective of Pragmatism

Although the ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism has certain advantages and potentials, there are also some limitations that need to be recognized and solved.

5.1 Short-term Benefits

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism is susceptible to short-term economic interests. In the pursuit of economic benefits, long-term ecological and environmental impact and sustainable development considerations may be overlooked. For pragmatism, the economic problem is indeed a big problem, and in the face of this problem, there is also a special ecological economics. Ecological economics integrates economic theories into ecological protection strategies, and its core idea is to explore how to achieve harmonious coexistence between humans and nature while developing the economy [13]. But this still does not solve the problem of interests and ecology at the root.

5.2 Technical Dependency

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism is overly dependent on the progress of science and technology. If scientific and technological progress lags behind or there are risks in the application of technology, it may have a negative impact on environmental protection and sustainable development. If a country or nation wants to stand at the pinnacle of the times, it cannot lack science, nor can it lack the guidance and support of the scientific spirit. The history of science is a history of gradual elimination of ignorance, or it can be said to replace the old with new, but less and less absurd ignorance. The progress of science takes time, and it takes a process by which a new technology replaces an old one. Under the pragmatic view of ecology, it is inevitable to encounter dependence on science, which will cause ecological impacts under the limitations of the era of science and technology.

5.3 Conflicts of Interest

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism may involve conflicts between different stakeholders when solving environmental problems. How to balance the interests of all parties and achieve the coordination of environmental protection and sustainable development is a complex issue. Shallow environmentalism is concerned with how to control and manage the natural environment more effectively to meet the needs of human interests. In contrast, the Deep

Ecology Movement recognizes that in order to achieve ecological balance, we need to make profound changes in the role of human beings in the Earth's ecosystem [14].

6. Conclusions and Prospects

The ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism is an important theoretical exploration of environmental protection and sustainable development. By combining the core concepts of pragmatism and ecology, it can play an important role in solving environmental problems and promoting sustainable development. However, it is necessary to recognize the limitations of the ecological view from the perspective of pragmatism and strive to find solutions to achieve harmonious economic, social and environmental development.

Future research can further explore the application of ecological outlook from the perspective of pragmatism to specific environmental problems and cases, and how to solve the problems of conflict of interest and short-term interest orientation. At the same time, we can also explore how to give full play to the role of public participation and social innovation, and promote the effective implementation of ecological outlook from the perspective of pragmatism in social practice.

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