

Moral Consciousness as a Base for Computer Ethics

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Abstract

The objective of this paper is to analyze the concept of consciousness from an ethical perspective. The world in which we live today faces an unparalleled crisis regarding human ethical values. Today in spite of having a greater quantity of values, the quality of those values has diminished. The real problem resides in the meaning or the sense that we assign these values and that those values are understood depending on certain contexts. This kind of problems is characteristic of the Postmodern Age in which the only certainty is *uncertainty*. This is due, in part, to a lack of understanding about what the mankind is. In order to better comprehend mankind, philosophical anthropology plays a key role. Using this perspective it is necessary to consider the philosophical anthropology of Emmanuel Levinas which is in opposition to Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism.

In addition, it is necessary to propose moral progress as a viable alternative -to the techno-scientific progress- that serves as a base as much for our discipline, as for our humanity. With this idea in mind, the article analyzes the consciousness from the Latin American conception. Furthermore, because of the *Masters of Suspicion*, we have changed the way in which we have changed the way in which we think about how the consciousness works.. In this way we will discuss the role that the deontological approach has to play in computer ethics and in computer scientists.

Finally, through the metaphor as tribunal or judge, we will answer the questions:

- Which role is culture playing in the moral development of consciousness?
- Is really possible to develop an artificial moral consciousness as it was considered in E-CAP 2004? If so, are we preparing humanoid robots as our successors?
- What are the impacts that moral consciousness has as a base of computer ethics?