system related to Piaget's and Kohlberg's philosophical suppositions is investigated. Chapter 2 examines the socio-historical conditions that dictate how we conceptualize morality, and how these conditions affected the formation of knowledge and the study of language. The distinction between what is "object" and what is "subject" is argued also. In chapter 3 the author conducts a logic-based analysis of the relationship between moral development and the sociology of knowledge as a social product. Kohlberg's six stages are introduced and examined for universality and for other variables.

The next four chapters are less historical. Chapter 4 draws attention to the many methodological problems of using Kohlberg's instruments to measure moral judgment. In chapter 5 Cortese discusses how social class and ethnic background affect human development. A feminist perspective on the cognitive development framework is included, along with Cortese's introduction of his own research of ethnic groups. He then compares his research with other cross-cultural studies. Cortese continues to use his own research in chapter 6 to try to establish a theoretical framework for subcultural variations in moral reasoning. Rather than support the idea of moral reasoning being universal, he offers evidence that the variables of personal autonomy, social level, and ethnic background all affect moral reasoning. In the last chapter Cortese uses Durkheim's dualistic conceptualization of language to disagree with Kohlberg's and Habermas' orientation toward moral theory. He reintroduces the objective-subjective dimension of social reality and concludes that morality is problematic because it is both subjective and objective.

The first three chapters would be of interest to those concerned with the philosophical and historical thoughts and events that contributed to the establishment of Kohlberg's six stage theory of moral development. Some knowledge of philosophy would be helpful in understanding this material. The following chapters would be for those interested in a sociological analysis of Kohlberg's stage theory and in cross-cultural issues.

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INDEX BY AUTHOR

Volume 1, Number 1-Volume 15, Number 1


Mid-American Review of Sociology


Mid-American Review of Sociology


Mid-American Review of Sociology


Mid-American Review of Sociology


Mid-American Review of Sociology


Author Index


Title Index


Mid-American Review of Sociology


Mid-American Review of Sociology


Title Index


Title Index


