

The Verity in the Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature by A. Carlson and R. W. Hepburn

Abstract

The thesis being presented deals with the issues of aesthetic appreciation of nature. The aim of the work is to examine the possible meanings of the concept of verity as a feature of the aesthetic appreciation of nature. Firstly, the work analyzes and compares the theories of two recent authors, champions of the cognitive approach in the aesthetics of nature, Allen Carlson and Ronald W. Hepburn. Each of them relates the aesthetic appreciation of nature with its discovering in a different way. Their approaches are analyzed in three main points. First, the analysis focuses on the terms the authors employ, second, it focuses on the significance the authors attribute to the veracity of the aesthetic experience, and finally, it describes the concept of thought component as it figures by both authors. Subsequently, these two approaches are compared and criticized. The final part of the work develops the ideas presented in the previous analysis. The thought component of the aesthetic experience is presented in a more relativist way and the advantages of such an open approach are pointed out. This new approach is roughly compared with the theory of M. Budd and it is confronted with the concept of indexical fallacy of C. Foster and the idea of metaphysical imagination of R. W. Hepburn. It turns out that the thought component can be possibly conceived as a crucial element of the aesthetic experience of nature without overestimating its significance. The verity or the validity of the knowledge employed in the aesthetic appreciation of nature is not determining for the emerging aesthetic value.