Contents

Preface			хi
1.	Introduction to the Strategy of Argument for		
	Moral Relativity and its Normative		
	Implicati		1
	-	laining moral experience	1
	-	we need new analyses of moral language	5
		onciling moral objectivity with subjectivity	6
		normative implications of moral relativity	8
2.	The Importance of Moral Truth		10
	2.1 The	purpose of surveying the analyses of	
	S	tevenson and Hare	10
	2.2 Stev	enson's moral individualism	10
	2.3 Har	e's principled moral individualism	12
	2.4 Usir	ng the work of Tarski and Davidson on truth	16
3.	Relativist A	nalyses of Morality as Social Creation	23
		man's analysis of morality as social creation	23
	3.2 Cas	tañeda's analysis of morality as social	
	С	reation	26
4.	The Recommended Relativist Analysis of Moral		
	"A ought to do X" Statements		37
		es and moral statements	37
	49 An	analysis of the moral "A quant to do X"	40

viii CONTENTS

5.	The An	alysis of "A ought to do X" Statements			
	Completed				
	5.1	Applying theories of reference	48		
	5.2	A causal theory of moral reference?	52		
	5.3	The case for applying the descriptive theory	59		
	5.4	Advantages over the previous relativist analyses	63		
	5.5	The general use of "A ought to do X" statements	66		
6.	The Recommended Relativist Analysis of "X is a				
	good Y" Statements and Consideration of				
	•	ections	68		
		Evaluating according to standards	68		
	6.2	A general analysis of "X is a good Y" statements	69		
	6.3	Possible objections to the analyses	71		
7.		ist Analyses of Moral Statements	80		
		Three kinds of absolutist analysis	80		
	7.2	Gewirth's Kantianism	80		
	7.3	Nagel's Kantianism	83		
		Kantian analyses of moral language	87		
	7.5	McDowell's Aristotelianism and corresponding			
		analyses of moral language	91		
	7.6	Foot's Aristotelianism and corresponding			
		analyses of moral statements	96		
	7.7	Moore's Platonism	100		
	7.8	Platts' Platonism and corresponding analyses			
		of moral language	102		
8.	The Me	ethod for Explaining Diversity and			
	Disag	greement in Moral Belief	105		
	8.1	Why we need a principle of translation	105		
	8.2	Quine's principle of charity	106		
	8.3	Grandy's principle of humanity	107		
	8.4	The principle of the best explanation	112		
	8.5	Charity versus the best explanation in translation	ı		
		of moral language	114		
	8.6	A possible objection to the principle of the best			
		explanation	116		
	8.7	Absolutist methods of accounting for diversity			
		and disagreement	117		
9.	Virtue-	Centered and Rights-Centered Moralities	121		
	9.1	The claims to be made for moral relativity	121		

CONTENTS	ix
CONTENTS	ix

		MacIntyre's theory of moral catastrophe	122
	9.3	Are rights-centered moralities less objective than virtue-centered moralities?	131
10.		Relativity Within Virtue-Centered and	
	Right	139	
	10.1	A statement of the hypothesis that there are	
		indeterminacies and variations in truth condi-	
		tions within rights-centered moralities	139
	10.2	A statement of the hypothesis that there are	
		indeterminacies and variations in truth condi-	
		tions within virtue-centered moralities	142
	10.3	An explanation of the Rawls-Nozick disagree-	
		ment that is consistent with the relativist	
		hypothesis	146
	10.4	Will the absolutist explanations of the Rawls-	
		Nozick disagreement work?	150
	10.5	Cross-cultural differences between virtue-	
		centered moralities	153
	10.6	Do the cross-cultural differences correspond to	
		differences in truth conditions?	156
11.	Compa	ring the Truth of Virtue-Centered and	
		s-Centered Moralities	160
	11.1	Identifying the differences	160
	11.2	Are there differences over the value of	
		freedom?	162
	11.3	The case for variation in truth conditions	168
	11.4	Accepting moral relativity	175
12.	Tolera	nce and Nonintervention as Implications	
		ral Relativity	177
	12.1	Does anything follow from moral relativity?	177
		Criticisms of relativist arguments for	
		tolerance	177
	12.3	A valid relativist argument for tolerance	179
	12.4	Problems posed for the argument	184
	12.5	Applying the relativist argument to abortion	190
13.		Relativity and the Problem of	
	Equal Worth		198
	13.1	Why there is a problem of equal worth	198
	13.2	The costs of according unequal worth	203

X CONTENTS

	Moral relativity, Taoism, and equal worth	206
13.4	Social structures conducive to the attitude of according equal worth	208
13.5	Taoism reconsidered	213
Appendix A		216
Appendix B		220
Notes		223
Bibliography		237
Index		243