Aesthetic Experience as Man’s Search for Self-realization

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In the discussion of the aesthetic experience, Dewey argues that aesthetic experience is nothing more than this successful integration. In his theory of aesthetic experience, Dewey assumes all that has been said about the interaction of organisms and the environment—the ongoing processes of nature with its variability, flexibility, incompleteness, openness, especially through the integration of the surrounding environment. In short, experience is a natural phenomenon, a relationship between one part of existence and another.

In this study, I try to clarify Dewey’s idea on man’s self-realization from three aspects, for which he maintains that life has meaning for humanity and that it is human task to search out this meaning, to make it enjoyable and realized in the concrete experience. First, Dewey maintains that aesthetic experience is an experience, which cures the tensions set up within the individual when the face of a disturbed case he became disoriented and impulsions on the drive. Secondly, Dewey maintains that aesthetic experience is an experience, which is the source of enjoyment. Last, Dewey maintains that aesthetic experience is an experience, which contributes to expand life and enrich spirit. Thus, the conclusion of this study is that aesthetic experience is an activity to discover the surrounding nature and human knowledge, and to find what is of basic value in life. It is also an activity in which the humanity is alive and through which humanity achieves one’s self-realization in an enjoyable life.

Key words: Dewey, aesthetic experience, self-realization