

Disagreement in the Contextualism/Relativism Debate: Latest Issues and Arguments

In this talk, I explore some of the latest disagreement-related issues and arguments in the debate between contextualism and relativism about perspectival expressions ("tasty", "beautiful", "might", "knows", etc.). Disagreement data (exchanges of the form "Avocado is tasty./No, it's not.") has been taken to be problematic for contextualist views. After presenting the challenge, I survey the extant types of replies from the contextualist. I then attempt to offer a general argument against taking disagreement to be pragmatic instead of semantic, as well as tackle the notion of "disagreement in attitude", also appealed to in reply to the challenge. Finally, I discuss the issue of whether we need a notion of "minimal disagreement" (one that all views in the debate could use and is consistent with the data) and discuss several proposals.