

Abstract

It is taken for granted that “Man is a rational animal” is an Aristotle’s famous definition of human beings. As the adjective which expresses the characteristic of human beings the term, “rational”, is used. According to Aristotle, rationality is the essence of human beings. In the Western tradition rationality has a supreme value in human beings’ words and deeds. In Japan, however, rationality seems not to be taken to be a positive concept, but rather to be a negative one. There are various aspects in rationality. In this paper I shall consider them and point out there are certainly some positive values which rationality possesses.