

Intention and harm in speech acts of blaming

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Abstract

The formulations and debates on the doctrine of double effect tend to consider moral responsibility directly linked to the intentions of the agent. This presentation aims to pay attention to the speech act of blaming by taking into account its possible 'double effect'. With the help of some examples, an analysis will be suggested that reverses the perspective: for the intentionality we attribute to the one who makes an accusation is modulated by that for which we attribute responsibility and, in the most serious cases, demand accountability. This perspective could be considered a consequence of the type of bias identified by the 'Knobe effect'. It will be argued, however, that acting in this way is part of our communicative practices and that, in many cases, it is reasonable for us to act in this way.