Reconsidering our Conceptualization of Matter as the Ground of Ecological Problems

Merve Ertene1
Tufan Cotok2

ABSTRACT

It is a fact that in today’s world the most urgent and important problem that waits for us to find a solution is ecological, because today ecological issue is not just a matter of being sensitive to nature and natural life, but it became a matter of life or death for humanity. In other words, it is urgent because we realize that nature does not need to be cared about, she can take care of herself perfectly, rather it is us and our lives that are on target waiting the rapidly approaching bullet. It is our life that flashing before our eyes no matter how we pretend to be blind. However, how did we come to this point? This study focuses on this question and aims to find an answer from a philosophical perspective. Accordingly, in this presentation I will claim that our understanding of matter lies at the basis of ecological problems, because how we conceptualize matter gives also the clue about how we understand the world and ourselves. At the same time with this study I hope to shed light on or think about whether our current understanding of matter pose an obstacle to a possible solution to ecological issues or helps to find a way out.

Keywords: Ecology, concept of matter, philosophy of nature, consumption society, capitalism

1 Research Assist, Sakarya University, Faculty of Arts & Sciences Dept of Philosophy, Turkey
2 Assist Prof, Sakarya University, Faculty of Arts & Sciences Dept of Philosophy, Turkey