

## Is post-structuralism possible?

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### Abstract:

*Unlike structuralism, post-structuralism concepts and content knowledge with reference to the structures and the dominant discourse, seeks to achieve a steady and stable framework of their meanings, with deconstruct the structures and meanings, leave content of knowledge from all shackles and put it with the fluidity and ambiguity and deny the any semantic pre- structure. According to post-structuralism perspective, there is no constant and reliable basis for knowledge and everything are in ongoing and continuous process in geography the meaning generated in the communication among spaces process and any geographical location and atmosphere have not independent meaning and identity lonely. According to the authors, post-structuralism, despite the noise, is unscientific view and before having knowledge nature is considered a political and social movement. At the premises of this school of thought suggests that this view of knowledge and conceptual contradictions and to rely on claimants of this school not only destroyed any scientific research, but also to communicate between geographical areas and access to the areas of interaction and dialogue between individuals, groups and spaces loses its relevance*

*therefore, the authors believe that it is basically the logical aspect, post-structuralism impossible and unreasonable, and the term meaningless.*

**Key words:** structuralism, post-structuralism, communication space, binary oppositions, decay and breakdown.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Post-structuralism is as one of the idealistic schools that came from structuralism school and gradually from the second half of the twentieth century, and as a radical perspective, many of the social sciences and humanities disciplines including geography covered. Although the origin of this view is cognate with the structuralism school, but grew and developed the concept, have gradually moved away from the school and even to criticize it. Despite this, the followers of this school are still some basic principles and assumptions, including the structuralism school of relativism, historicism, remove the knowing subject and the emphasis on social fields of knowledge are shared with them. According to some schools despite criticism from some post-structuralism orientation, fundamental differences with the school not only with the more radical views of structuralism helped (Ensafi, the newspaper of Iran 07.21.2010).

Structuralism, post-structuralism school such distinctions is that, in contrast to the attitude of the view structure, meaning and content knowledge is not product specific structures, but born of the relationship and interaction between the structure and the meaning of science, truth and rationality in a process of continuous and uninterrupted communication between structures and discourses produced no fixed limit to the meanings of words and content knowledge does not exist. Every sense of the knowledge produced conflicting interpretations opposition to the creation of knowledge and the emergence of the semantic meaning of its opposite ends immediately and thus achieve any fixed meaning

is impossible. In other words, in the post-structuralism approach, no concept of the center and there is no fixed frame of reference with respect to which the meanings of words and the nature of things to be determined. Thus, it is possible to achieve a firm foundation for knowledge, wisdom and truth, not to mention there will be no criterion to determine the truth or falsity of knowledge cases will not be available. Because recognize the truth or falsity of the claim is only possible if fixed set of principles accepted and referred the matters to be considered. But when no dialogue and no accepted framework among all devices referred fundamentally to be negated, then speak of the meaning, knowledge, wisdom, truth, not only does not make sense, but essentially Is impossible.

## **2. THEORETICAL CONCEPTS:**

### **2.1 The history of post-structuralism:**

Post-structuralism school of idealist philosophy and science, is that of the structuralism school of thought emerged gradually from the second half of the twentieth century, and as a radical perspective, many disciplines, including humanities and social sciences disciplines Geography affected. Historically, the roots of this view can be thought of in the BC Greek sophist and skeptics. The main origin of this school of thought in the new period can be thought of Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher attributed. As well as social and political conditions prevailing in the period after the Second World War in Europe can be regarded as grounds for the emergence and growth of such approaches. It should be noted, schools such as structuralism, post-structuralism and the Frankfurt School, the schools are considered radical in politics and social affairs. Although common in contemporary post-structuralism thought in philosophy and science Thanks to the work of many scholars, but in the meanwhile three of the thinkers of the " Gills Deleuze ", " Michel Foucault " and " Jacques Derrida " more than others and also share in this respect French thinker's

other Western countries. The French philosopher Jacques Derrida in particular between the concept of " Deconstruction " and the French thinker Michel Foucault The concept of " Genealogy of knowledge " profound impact on various areas of the humanities in Europe and America. As the post-structuralism view of the different branches of humanities and social sciences have affected, especially the branches of Human Geography and geographers influenced the field of ultra-radical views such as " Doreen Massey ", " Therift ", " Gregory ", "Edvard Soja ", " Doel " and geographers known as " David Harvey " and " Ronald John Johnston " is more or less follows are the post-structuralism perspective.

## **2.2. Poststructuralist geography**

In the field of human geography, cultural geography, particularly issues related to political, social and planning issues related to the field of urban, rural, land use and so on, issues that most post-structuralism geographers accounted Research. In the meantime, the concept of "place" and "space" and the nature and elements of it are in the spotlight of this Geographers (Mardoch, 2013: 24). In the post-structuralism approach, unlike the structural view that the meaning and identity of places and spaces depends on the cultural geography and specific knowledge systems, geographical identities are consequent of collision and the relationship between knowledge systems and geographic areas. In other words, in the post-structuralism approach, there is no permanent space that have a certain origin, there is but a single case of identity unspecified spaces, which are vague and fluid and its constituent elements.

According to Doreen Massey, post-structuralism English geographer, if we have known that different people have different principles and frameworks of thought and knowledge, so we should know the geographical places and spaces can be diverse in nature (Doreen Massey, 1991 28). Thrift, with other poststructuralist theory geographer called "Nanmayangr" said concepts should be seen as uncertain. This means that concepts

are open and flowing (Thrift, 91: 4-2). From the perspective of David Harvey, general characteristics of space, obtained by processes that combine space to stabilize their metastable. This way, space is created by the interaction (Harvey, 1996: 294). Messy also in opposition to the structuralism approaches, suggests a relationship approach. Three proposals for relational approach to space, provided him with appropriate substantive difference yet (Mardoch, 2013: 12).

1. Space outcome of various intertwined relationships. This relationship through different spatial scales, from local to global, and everywhere in between, to be implemented.
2. . There is no space diversity is not possible without a plurality of outer space. And a plurality of space construction.
3. Space is never closed (Messy, 1998: 28).

In conclusion it can be said, that the geography of post-structuralism, there is no fixed geographical landscape and the net result of a special framework. Because basically the ratio and the relationship between geographical areas that are geographically diverse structures during the process of production and reproduction are deployed and instead of stability and unity, transience, fluidity and there is no ruling on their ability to predict events Geographic.

### **2.3 Key concepts in geography poststructuralist:**

Here for a detailed review of the fundamentals of geography male poststructuralist, it is necessary to discuss three key concepts contained in the above-go attitude, because a correct understanding of the content of this school without an understanding of the key concepts, is not possible. The three key concepts are: 1) the concept of space (from the perspective of Leibniz); 2) the concept of deconstruction (from the perspective of Jacques Derrida); 3) the concept of relational space

### **2.3.1 The concept of space in terms of Leibniz:**

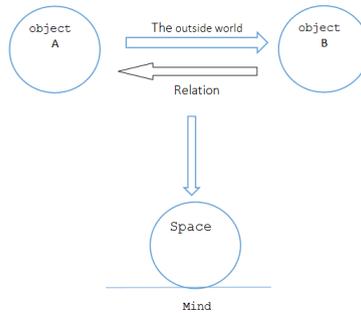
Space, including words that, despite its widespread use in various fields of philosophy and the natural and social sciences, has long been the subject of much debate among various scholars and never was a sharing agreement among scholars think about it (Mesbah Yazdi, 2002: 140). In philosophy, Plato knows space as a single substance where is the capacity of the world (ibid: 143). In physics, the idea of Isaac Newton (1642-1727) of space similar to Plato about it. According to Newton, there are no objects, no effect on the availability of space, so space can be considered to be devoid of all objects (Alexander, 2001: 51) and (Lassi, 1998: 97-98).

Unlike Newton, Immanuel Kant (1804-1724) German philosopher of the eighteenth century, believe that space is not only a tangible reality and the objective will not be considered, but also is not an abstract concept; therefore, he believes, space and time, the wares innate mind humans and the intuition of objects and concepts to mind, so before any sensory perception and rational knowledge, time and space as the constitutive innate mind, always and in every sense are both emotionally and intellectually, in advance of the presence and location (Copleston, 2012: 217-216) and (Alexander, 2001: 68-64), (Mesbah Yazdi, 2002: 142) and (Popper, 1984: 222-221).

But Leibniz's view in this regard, together with a realistic attitude Newton and Kant's view of nature is different. According to Leibniz, the space is dependent on the existence of objects. In other words, the space when the realization that things have already come true. But the way to achieve concrete and tangible objects in space, such as the realization and embodiment is not as radically as jewelry and objective space is not out of mind that comes through the senses of perception. But space can be among the issues considered subjective and abstract than that of the comparison between multiple objects simultaneously, and thus arises in the mind of abstract and conceptual credit (Copleston, 2012: 216) and (Alexander, 2001: 40). In particular, post-structuralism geographers considered

the concept of space and the overall relationship of the concept of space, exactly matches the sense that Leibniz of the relationship between objects, has raised community (Mardoch, 2013: 60).

**Figure 1: (concept of space in terms of Leibniz)**



### **2-3-3- Deconstruction:**

Jacques Derrida in the essay "Structure, Sign, play of present" meaning of deconstruction to use the word states as follows: The content of each text suggests it is content that is different from the author's intention. In any text, some concepts are highlighted with this aim that other concepts are ignored and even eliminated. It operates through the use of binary oppositions. The aim of deconstruction is, in fact, show the incongruity and contradiction within the context of the demolition and deconstruction, it aims to restructure it in a way that will get rid of heterogeneity and integration (Derrida, 1966). For Derrida everything is as a text that needs to be read and interpreted (Mosleh, 2011: 60). According to Derrida, the world is a text is nothing outside the text (Derrida, 1976: 233).

He believes that, in the Platonic system, we witnessed confrontation between two groups of words and meanings. Opposition such as "to be and not to be, spirit and body, speech and writing, good and evil, cultural and natural" in the Platonic metaphysics between the original intention, highlighting the presence of words and concepts first at the expense of exclusion and the second is to remove the words and concepts. So that it

leads to incoherence and fragmentation of the text and the situation is still wide shadow on thinking of West (Zamiran, 2000: 14). Derrida means of the design and the concept of 'deconstruction', providing a suitable solution for overcoming the critical situation prevailing in the system of Western thinking. Although thinkers such as Martin Heidegger before him as well as the concept of destruction in an attempt to get rid of the system have been platonic, but, according to Derrida, there is no possibility of getting rid of metaphysics and any attempt to destroy this metaphysics, merely relying on concepts and it is possible the principles of metaphysics (Derrida, 1981: 104).

Derrida's deconstruction plan to turn on a few fundamental given that it rests between the two concepts of "difference" and "otherness" are of great importance. The purpose Derrida's concept of difference or the phrase "delay", it is the meaning of all things when it's understandable that this varied and even contradictory to consider (KHabbazi, 2010: 46) (Mosleh, 2011: 68). Because every word in the language used different words that immediately come to mind and seem no different from concept to independently Word cannot recognize (Nojournian, 2006). The whole purpose of the Derrida from delivery of the strategy deconstruction of the text is showing the differences and otherness between the words that they are to go through detoxification domination of concepts that claim independence.

### **2-3-3- Communication space**

The concept of "communication space" of the post-structuralism geographers, causing some confusion in the people of this concept has been considered. So that some have speculated that compound word communication space is new concept that recently developed by post-structuralism geographers and geographical literature is clearly the concept of communication can be synonymous with "relative space" to consider the meaning philosophical and scientific texts including geography

is common. For example, use the word relative space can be clearly seen in the work of David Harvey (Jensen, 1997: 97-96) and (Shakouie, 1996: 286).

## **4. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS**

Review of basics and claims the geography of post-structuralism

### **4.1 relative space (relationship)**

As previously stated, the concept of space in post-structuralism perspective, influenced by the attitude of the German philosopher Leibniz. According to Leibniz, space is conceptual comparison, the relationship between objects arise in the mind of the outside world community, to put it more precisely, the nature of the credit. From the perspective of epistemology, these concepts into the roots and origins of the objects and Foreign Affairs and is considered a reasonable objective, say second philosophical or intellectual validities (Mesbah Yazdi, 2001: 35-31).

### **4.2 deconstructing of space**

The concept of post-structuralism deconstruction of space by geographers with titles such as "deconstruction" and "decentralization" of space arises, is deeply influenced by the ideas of French philosopher Jacques Derrida's deconstruction. For Derrida, the whole world is as text and any text reading and interpretation is required (Mosleh, 2011: 60).

### **4.3 All the world as text**

The idea that all the text is, at first glance not very controversial, because Derrida, text broad and inclusive sense and includes everything that can be read and interpreted (Mosleh, 2011: 60).

Before Derrida, Galileo saw nature as a book that should be studied and reviewed. He believed that there is a relation

and harmony between the content and the laws of nature and the Bible because the creator of both the Bible and nature are one and that one is God. He also believed that the natural book is written in mathematical language (Larry, 1998: 60) and (Sadeghi, 2010: 190).

Pythagoras and his followers were the first philosophers in the second half of the sixth century BC, knew the world as a text that is written in mathematical language and trying to explain the secrets and mysteries with the help of mathematical discovery rules (Copleston, 2014: 43).

#### **4.4 sense dialectic (meaning production mechanism)**

any text containing two contradictory within itself and they appear in two opposed form of concepts and words, as the dialectician like Hegel says the production of objects and phenomena areas a result of internal contradictions between objects (Soroush, 1978: 46-44), the meanings of words are as a result of the confrontation of conflicting words within the text.

Although Jacques Derrida on Plato's attitude was based on binary oppositions between the mind and body, speech and writing and in and criticism of Plato's thought system, but the production of meaning and words the idea leg squeezes the meaning of each word becomes evident only in conjunction with another word that it is also considered the opposite of the word because no word and it means no relationship (correlation contrast) with other words, in principle, does not mean (Nojournian: 219).

### **5. CONCLUSION:**

In the paper, the discussion and critique of post-structuralism school of particularly post-structuralism geography has been done. The authors approach in criticize of this schools is in the context of realistic and has been critical rationalism. In this article, we mentioned a brief history of the school and then the foundations and theoretical and epistemological assumptions that we have examined.

According to the results of this study, post-structuralism school that is considered among the postmodern views and radical attitude, despite the claims of social justice, freedom and protection of human and community groups and disadvantaged groups in this sense, the charm that has earned among some intellectuals and educated groups, in terms of theoretical and epistemological assumptions is lack of inconsistent and reasoned, logical and defensible. this has led to that this school cannot be considered as a scientific approach and attitude reliable foundations of knowledge. Here are several reasons that caused the situation referred to briefly refer to some of them:

1. In accordance with the principles and assumptions school to post- structuralism, general attitude is metaphysical view and is lack of basic characteristic of a scientific theory.
2. The post-structuralism approach is idealistic and largely ideological character and is lacks of recommendations and descriptive characteristics (representation).
3. Post-structuralism interpretations of texts, structures and geographical spaces are with extreme relativism that is a direct consequence of the roll in the vortex of nihilism oriented.
4. Objectivity and validity that is the main feature of a scientific theory is not observed in post- structuralism.
5. post- structuralism views have reflection Features.
6. Because post-structuralism view to making decentralization of texts and concepts, to establish the relationship between spaces and structure is meaningless and impossible.
7. The issue of judgment regarding assumptions, theories and claims and determine the truth or falsity of relying on the principles of this book, is ruled out.
8. Texts, post-structuralism concepts and relational space especially in view of the geography of post-structuralism

has ambiguity, confusion and uncertainty and lack basic and essential criteria.

9. According to the claimant to post-structuralism, the fundamental question is, whether any post-structuralism possible?
10. Post-post-structuralism perspective, including geography, due to lack of essential features for a theory and a scientific approach, is unscientific view.
11. The use of post-structuralism perspective as a methodological studies and social sciences, including geography, because epistemological problems is impossible.

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