Constructing a new language from a marxist perspective for social sciences in the 21st century: a proposal

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Abstract

As it has been widely argued, 20th century Marxism – especially in the second half of the century- was relatively more focused on “symbolic re-production” contrary to the thinkers such as Lenin, Hilferding or Luxemburg who emphasized the “material re-production”. There has been a general tendency to concentrate more on the areas such as aesthetics and culture rather than political economy and infrastructural analysis. It can be said that material re-production was subordinated by symbolic re-production. But on the other hand, the opposite is also present; the subordination of symbolic re-production to material re-production is in sight especially in the field of economics (in one Marxist variant to another). This fragmentation comes with the intensive division of social sciences - either Marxist or not - and depicts a true “schizophrenic” disciplinary look which results in over-specialization (for example; economics mainly focusing on material re-production, political science mainly focusing on re-production of power and cultural studies focusing on symbolic re-production while they are making a contribution to the re-production of knowledge by their own manner).

What makes Marx’s “Capital” important; is not only its explanatory content of the moment, but more than that, its methodological guidance – in an epistemological sense - for analysing the social phenomenon. Marx’s epistemology in “Capital”, is both holistic by taking the social phenomenon in the context of relations in which it is located in, is historical by taking the facts with their changing dynamics in time, and is also critical by indicating the relations of power. This paper suggests going back to the basic epistemological roots - which are embedded in “Capital” - for an entire understanding in analysing the social phenomenon. By doing so it seeks a new language between the spheres of material and symbolic re-production and the reproduction of power and knowledge from a Marxist perspective. The final objective of the study

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is to constitute a conceptual framework for an alternative / critical analysis for social sciences in the 21st Century.

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS
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**ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS**

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