

## Abstract

I started my study on the influence of postmodernism on sociology by making an abstract of the works of Jean Francois Lyotard, Jean Baudrillard and Frederic Jameson, the most prominent thinkers in this field. Then I examined the sociology- related arguments of postmodernism. Taking into consideration the diversity of this school of thought, I organized my presentation by classifying it into 2 categories: skeptical and affirmative. The arguments generated by postmodernists relate to the following topics : 1) relationship of author, text and reader; 2) rejection of subject and subject-object dichotomy; 3) relationship of history, time and space; 4) relationship between theory and truth; 5) representation and 6) epistemology and alternative methodology originating from postmodernist.

Then I studied the influence of postmodernism on sociology.

First, on theory and substance, postmodernism 1) developed the micro-macro synthesis outmode, 2) contributed to studies of contemporary society, 3) brought sociologists back to existing social issues and 4) familiarized the academia with the use of representation as an object of sociological study.

Second, on epistemology and methodology, postmodernist criticism is focused on two crises: the crisis of representation and the crisis of legitimation which 1) generated more qualitative inquiry in the field; 2) blurred the line between empirical studies and social critics; 3) generated epistemological change, e.g., sociology from the standpoint of women/colored people, emotional sociology and interpretive interaction; 4) introduced new methods into sociology, the most important of which is deconstruction; 5) stimulated sociologists to apply more experimental writing and 6) introduced new criteria for evaluating sociological work.

In my conclusion, I attempted to give a personal account on the role and value of postmodernism and postmodernity. My first hypothesis is that in historical sense postmodernity is the second void in history when people lose their faith in science and I see it as a period of transformation. My second hypothesis originates in Foucault's spatialization of history that allows me to see postmodernism as a new kind of academic discourse which does not necessarily replace the old one but merely co-exists and juxtaposes with the old-type academic thought.

It also should be noted that there appears no direct impact of postmodernism on sociology and the majority of sociologists tend to ignore its arguments.