

ABSTRACT

RESTRUCTURING THE PARALOGICAL DISCOURSE OF POSTMODERN THEORY: FROM RESISTANCE TO EXPANSION

Postmodernism as an epistemic critico-theoretic optic has become defunct and consequently the postmodern negation of all teleological meta-narratives are being challenged as the current ethico-political/theological turn in critical theory advocates a radical messianic politics of agency and emancipation. Earlier the postmodern incredulity to all theories as totalitarian and reductive did away with all mechanisms of cognitive and epistemological mapping to evaluate the praxis, and that generated a theoretic void. Of late the growing unrest against the paralogical discourse of postmodernism has provoked the exploration of new theoretical domains to dismantle the monolithic dominance of postmodernism. As an ethos it champions the annihilation of the division between the high and the low. It boasts of polysemy and thrives on the gospel of diversity and pluralism. As a cultural and political handmaiden of late capitalism it legitimises the commodification of the psyche and because of postmodernism pastiche replaces purity and simulacrum dictates life by the contrived mechanism of simulation. The market mandarins call the shots and the meta-narratives of yore yield place to "any-goes" micro-narratives. Given that, do we need to relocate the theoretical manifesto? The po-mo space is littered with manufactured items of the cultural industry which have a seductive appeal for the masses. The sound byte, ads, movie promos, gizmo passion, cybernetics, pornographic blogs, tinsel trivia-all these are the new vantage grounds of contemporary cultural practices. However since the beginning of postmodernism there have been resisting and interrogative voices against it. Habermasian attack against postmodernism has validated the project of modernity as an unfinished one and postmodernism is viewed as an *avatar* of neo-conservatism. The present research attempts a critical examination of the current interrogating voices of postmodernism such as Zizek, Agamben, Badiou and Antonio Negri to arrive at a new radical parallax view in the post 9/11 world.

Key words: meta-narrative, paralogy, polysemy, pastiche, simulacrum, ethico-political turn.