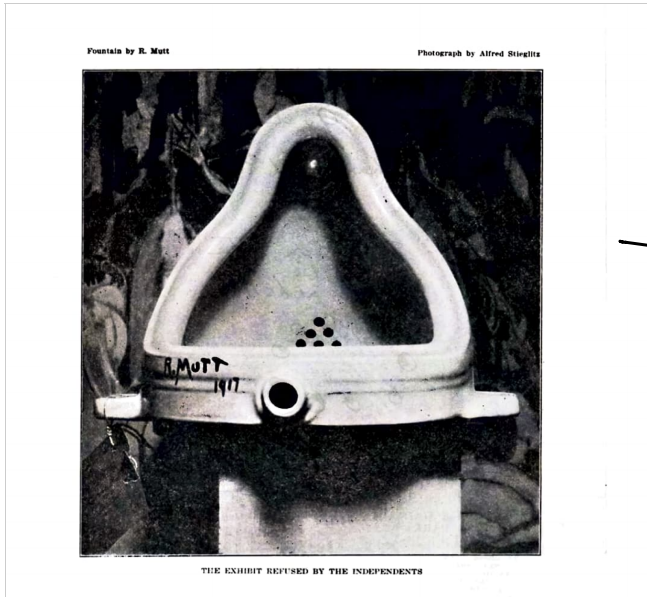PDF
Social
Work ..

JEST   (1996)

1,000 → David Foster Wallace's

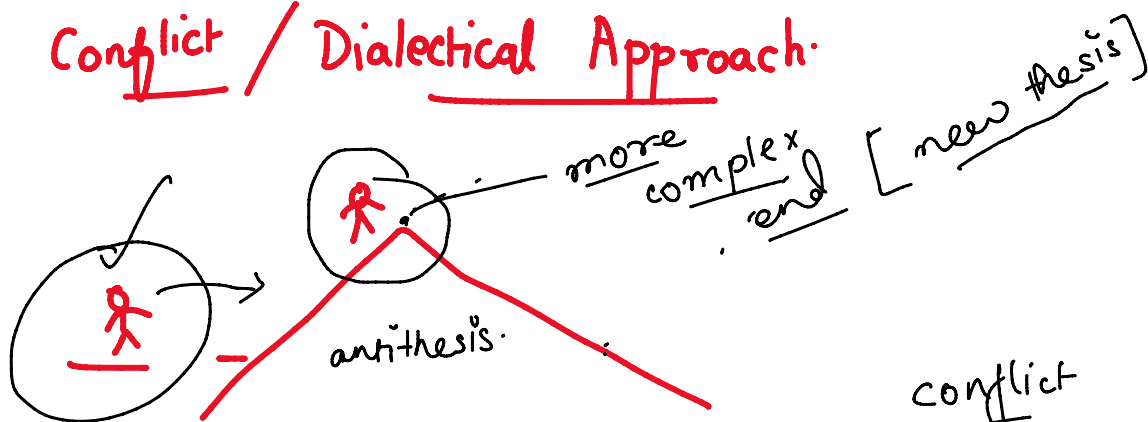→ Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup Cans (1962)

→ urinal.
Marcel Duchamp's fountain (1917).

R. Mutt

Functionalist

↳ Social stability   —   Emile Durkheim.

↳ Interconnected parts -

↳ Manifest and latent } → unintented/
              functions -   hidden

      ↓

      intended/

      recognised.

↳ Social Evolution

Conflict / Dialectical Approach.

more complex end [new thesis]

antithesis.

conflict
——
resolution.

↳ = development
          +
       change.

Dialectical Process.

Thesis

Antithesis

Synthesis

thesis - Synthesis.

synthesis

thesis — Synthesis.
antithesis

W H I T E / B L A C K
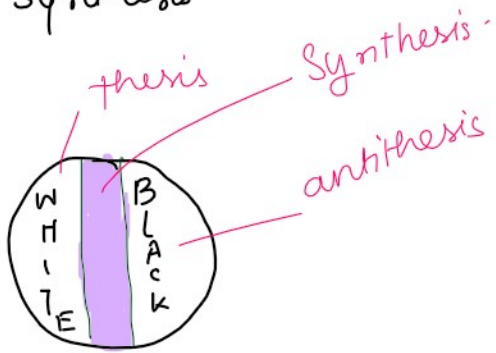
Yin Yang

The **Structuralist Approach.**

↳ linguistics.
↳ anthropology
↳ psychology
↳ literary theory.

↳ Ferdinand de Saussure
Claude Lévi – Strauss.

Roman Jacobson
Roland Barthes.

Postmodernism.

↳ Skepticism of grand narratives -
↳ Focus on the individual.

↳ Self referentiality

↳ Hybridity

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Social change

Social change is the alteration of the social order of a society, including the relationships between people and the institutions and norms that govern them. It can be brought about by a variety of factors, including economic, technological, political, and social movements.

One of the most common ways that social change is achieved is through protest movements. People come together to demand change on a variety of issues, such as civil rights, gender equality, and environmental protection. Protests can be effective in raising awareness of an issue and putting pressure on decision-makers to take action.

Another important driver of social change is community organizing. This involves building relationships between people who share a common goal and working together to achieve it. Community organizers can use a variety of strategies, such as voter registration, education campaigns, and advocacy to bring about change.

Social media has also become a powerful tool for social change. It allows people to connect with each other and share information quickly and easily. This can be used to raise awareness of social issues, organize protests, and mobilize people to take action.

Elections are another important way to bring about social change. By voting for candidates who share their values, people can elect leaders who will work to make their community a better place.

History is full of examples of social change achieved through the efforts of ordinary people. From the abolition of slavery to the passage of civil rights legislation, social change has been driven by people who have stood up for what they believe in.

One of the most famous examples of social change is the civil rights movement in the United States. African Americans were subjected to segregation and discrimination in all aspects of life. In the 1950s and 1960s, they organized protests and boycotts to demand equal rights. Their efforts led to the passage of landmark legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Another example of social change is the women's rights movement. Women have fought for centuries to achieve equal rights, including the right to vote, the right to own property, and the right to equal pay. In the 20th century, the women's rights movement made significant progress, with the passage of laws such as the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. However, women still face many challenges today, such as gender discrimination in the workplace and sexual violence.

Social change is an ongoing process. As societies evolve, new challenges and opportunities arise. It is important for people to continue to speak out and work to make the world a better place for all.

Approaches to the study of Society

Functionalist

The functionalist approach is a perspective in sociology and anthropology that views society as a complex system composed of various parts, each with a specific function that contributes to the stability and functioning of the whole. This perspective emphasizes the interdependence of different social institutions and their roles in maintaining social order and stability. Functionalist thinkers believe that society operatessimilar to a living organism, where different parts work together to ensure the overall well-being and survival of the society.

Key points of the functionalist approach include:

1. Social Stability:

Functionalist theorists, such as Emile Durkheim, argue that social institutions and norms are essential for maintaining social stability. These institutions, like family, education, and religion, provide individuals with a sense of belonging and social order.

2. Interconnected Parts:

Functionalism posits that each part of society, be it family, education, economy, or politics, plays a unique role. These parts are interrelated and work together to maintain the overall stability of the society. For example, the education system prepares individuals for their future roles in the workforce.

3. Manifest and Latent Functions:

Functionalists distinguish between manifest functions (intended and recognized) and latent functions (unintended and often hidden) of social institutions. For instance, the manifest function of education is to impart knowledge, while its latent function includes socialization and networking.

4. Social Evolution:

Functionalism suggests that societies evolve and adapt over time. As the needs of society change, its institutions also transform to fulfill these needs. This adaptation ensures the survival and progression of the society.

5. Critiques of Functionalism:

Critics argue that functionalism oversimplifies complex social processes and tends to ignore social conflicts, inequalities, and power struggles. It has been accused of being conservative, as it often upholds existing social structures and norms without questioning their fairness or justice.

In summary, the functionalist approach provides valuable insights into the structure and functioning of societies, emphasizing the importance of social institutions and their functions. However, it is essential to consider this perspective critically, acknowledging its limitations and taking into account other sociological theories that focus on social conflict, power dynamics, and social change.

Conflict/Dialectical Approach

The conflict/dialectical approach is a way of understanding the world by examining the contradictions and tensions that exist within it. It is based on the idea that everything is constantly changing and developing, and that this change is driven by the conflict between opposing forces.

This approach can be used to analyze a wide range of phenomena, from social and political systems to natural and scientific processes. It can also be used to understand personal experiences and relationships.

Example:

Imagine a picture of a seed and a sprout. The seed is the thesis, the sprout is the antithesis, and the synthesis is the plant that grows from the sprout. The seed is inconflict with its environment, but it also relies on the environment for resources. This conflict drives the seed to sprout and grow into a plant.

Another example:

Imagine a picture of a person struggling to climb a mountain. The person is the thesis, the mountain is the antithesis, and the synthesis is the person reaching the top of the mountain. The person is in conflict with the mountain, but they also need the mountain to achieve their goal. This conflict drives the person to keep climbing, even when it is difficult.

The dialectical process

The dialectical process consists of three stages:

1. Thesis: The thesis is the initial idea or position.

2. Antithesis: The antithesis is the opposite of the thesis. It is the challenge or conflict that the thesis faces.

3. Synthesis: The synthesis is the resolution of the conflict between the thesis and the antithesis. It is a new and more complex understanding that emerges from the conflict.

The dialectical process is never-ending. As soon as a synthesis is reached, it becomes the new thesis, and a new antithesis emerges. This process of conflict and resolution drives change and development.

Conflict/dialectical approach in pictures

The following pictures illustrate the conflict/dialectical approach:

- Seed and sprout: The seed is the thesis, the sprout is the antithesis, and the plant is the synthesis.

- Person climbing a mountain: The person is the thesis, the mountain is the antithesis, and reaching the top of the mountain is the synthesis.

- Yin and yang: The yin and yang symbol represents the duality of all things. The black and white halves of the symbol represent the thesis and antithesis, and the gray area in between represents the synthesis.

- Heraclitus' river: Heraclitus was a Greek philosopher who said that "no man ever steps in the same river twice." This quote illustrates the idea that everything is constantly changing and developing.

- The butterfly lifecycle: The caterpillar is the thesis, the pupa is the antithesis, and the butterfly is the synthesis.

Conclusion

The conflict/dialectical approach is a powerful tool for understanding the world around us. It can help us to see the world in a new light and to identify opportunities for change and development.

The structuralist approach

The structuralist approach is a theoretical framework in various fields of study, including linguistics, anthropology, psychology, and literary theory. Structuralism emerged in the early 20th century, gaining prominence in the 1950s and 1960s, particularly through the work of scholars like Ferdinand de Saussure, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Roman Jakobson, and Roland Barthes. At its core, structuralism seeks to understand human phenomena by analyzing the underlying structures that form the basis of these phenomena. Structuralists believe that these structures are universal and can be studied in a systematic and scientific manner. The approach focuses on the relationships between elements in a system rather than the elements themselves. Structuralists often use methods such as binary oppositions, sign systems, and formal rules to analyze and interpret these relationships.

In linguistics, structuralism, as advocated by Saussure, emphasizes the study of language as a structure composed of smaller units with specific functions. Saussure introduced the concepts of signifier (the sound pattern of a word) and signified (the concept or meaning associated with the word), highlighting the arbitrary nature of linguistic signs.

In anthropology, Lévi-Strauss applied structuralism to the study of cultures and societies. He proposed that cultural phenomena, such as myths and rituals, can be understood as structures that

reflect underlying mental patterns common to all humans. Lévi-Strauss emphasized the significance of binary oppositions in understanding cultural meanings and symbols.

In literary theory, structuralism examines the underlying structures of narratives, focusing on elements such as characters, plot, and themes. Structuralist literary criticism aims to uncover the universal structures present in literature and how these structures shape meaning.

However, it's essential to note that the structuralist approach has been criticized for its tendency to oversimplify complex phenomena and disregard historical and cultural contexts. Despite its limitations, structuralism has had a lasting impact on various disciplines, influencing later schools of thought like post-structuralism and semiotics.

Postmodernism

Postmodernism is a broad movement that developed in the mid-20th century across philosophy, the arts, architecture, and criticism, marking a departure from modernism. The term has been more generally applied to describe a historical era, and as an attitude or condition, a disbelief in metanarratives, and a rejection of the grand theories and ideologies associated with modernism.

Characteristics of Postmodernism

Some of the key characteristics of postmodernism include:

- Skepticism of grand narratives: Postmodernists reject the idea that there is one, true way to understand the world. They believe that there are multiple perspectives and truths, and that these truths are often contradictory.

- Focus on the individual: Postmodernism emphasizes the importance of individual experience and identity. It rejects the idea that there is a universal human nature, and instead sees people as being shaped by their unique experiences and cultures.

- Self-referentiality: Postmodern art and literature often refer to themselves, rather than to an external reality. This is a way of questioning the idea that there is any such thing as an objective reality.

- Hybridity: Postmodernism often blends different styles and genres together. This is a way of challenging the idea that there are clear boundaries between different types of art and culture.

Examples of Postmodernism in Art

Some examples of postmodernism in art include:

- Marcel Duchamp's Fountain (1917): Duchamp's Fountain is a urinal that he signed with the pseudonym R. Mutt and submitted to an art exhibition. The work was rejected by the exhibition committee, but it has since become one of the most iconic examples of

postmodern art. Duchamp's Fountain challenged the traditional definition of art and questioned the role of the artist.

- Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup Cans (1962): Warhol's Campbell's Soup Cans is a series of paintings that depict images of Campbell's Soup cans. The paintings are all identical, and they are displayed in a grid format. This work is a commentary on consumerism and mass production. It also challenges the traditional idea of what constitutes a work of art.

- David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest (1996): Wallace's Infinite Jest is a novel that is over 1,000 pages long and features a complex plot with multiple narrators and storylines. The novel is a postmodern masterpiece that explores themes such as addiction, entertainment, and the nature of reality.

Postmodernism in Social Work

Postmodernism has also had an impact on the field of social work. Postmodern social workers focus on empowering clients to create their own narratives and identities. They also reject the idea that there is one, true way to solve social problems. Instead, postmodern social workers believe that it is important to work with clients to develop solutions that are tailored to their individual needs and experiences.

Conclusion

Postmodernism is a complex and multifaceted movement. It has had a significant impact on a wide range of fields, including art, literature, philosophy, and social work. Postmodernism has challenged us to think critically about the world around us and to question the assumptions that we often make.