

Explanation the Epistemic Relativism Place in Understanding the political Impact on Geographical Space Production

Ehsan Lashgari Tafreshi¹

Assistance professor in political geography, Yazd University, Yazd, Iran

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Extended abstract

1. Introduction

In the evaluated of Geographical studies from the 1970s with the arrival of Marxist ideas in Geography, some of geographers turned away from focusing on quantitative methods and ecological studies. In this regard, serious theoretical criticism was conducted on the quantitative methodology in Geography. This time, the definition of space was full of political and ideological conflicts. In the Positivism school, space was considered as a material phenomenon and researcher should be formal logic for study the spatial organization. They should not interfere his ideology or culture for discovering the truth of space. While, in the post positivism thinking, quantities' planning is not nothing except "false consciousness" and in the opposite, meanings, ideas, theories obtain their objectivity and ostensible concept by dominant power and ideology. So, geographical spaces also are derived from dominant ideological and power. Relativistic geographers did not believe that many cultural and social behaviors are not necessarily the result of material gain. In post positivism methodology, major assumption is that invisible force in behind of any symbol in the space that were caused any symbol in space are emerged. So, the space concept does not have actual objectivity. The political dimension of space was one of the most important dimensions of space. So, this article has been struggled to understand the function of epistemic relativism in the study of the political impacts on geographic space and it explains the better performance of relativistic cognition in understanding the political dimension of space.

2. Review of Literature

Cognitive relativism is in the context of subjective ontology and contrary to the positivism view, can not to achieve absolute results. Generally, mentality concepts that only match the frame of mind are a relative cognition. In relativism, the requirement of certainty is replaced with symbolization and human being becomes the criterion of cognition. In this view, geographical space is the result of the relationships between economics, culture, political structure, nature and it has a concrete relationship with them. In this notion,

¹ Corresponding author Email: Lashgari@yazd.ac.ir

the concept of geographic space is never final and it is known as "spatial representations". So, Ideology, political economy and social relations are considered in the space production.

3. Method

This research has fundamental approaches in the philosophy of geography and it has been referred to use the valid document and bibliography for data gathering. This research was conducted in descriptive and analytical approaches. In the first step, it defined space concept and cognition. Then, by conformity this definition to the function of historical political discourses, relative epistemology will be explained as the most likely way for understanding the relationship between politics and geography.

4. Finding and discussion

As mentioned, in the definition of geographical space concept, one of the important aspects of production and changes of the geographical space is resulting from political power. So that, politics and ideology as a process, the geographical space as the form and the context are always interconnected with each other. In other words, any action that knowingly or unwittingly crosses with political power is considered as the political action and therefore spatial structure is the production of political processes. Generally, the main functions of post positivism in understanding the relationship between politics and geographic space is as follows:

1- Changing in geographic space phenomena are affected largely by political power, although the trend of geographical space is not one-dimensional. However, Discourse merely is not considered as the abstract idea and any phenomenon into geographical space is dependent on a discourse. On the other hand, coordination between different levels of space planning regardless of dominant power cannot be achieved in a sustainable way. Therefore, epistemic relativism seeks to challenge any kind of intrinsic knowledge and refuses to ignore political discourse.

2- There isn't accurate knowledge about the future of geographical space changes as a result of political power transition. In this cognitive approach, predicting the impact of political discourse on space production requires genealogy approach. This way of thinking has led geographers to lean toward historical sociology in their work. They believe that the function of political and social forces has been discoverable throughout history. Geographer can predict the future of spatial reconstruction based on their ideology. In this context, recognizing changes of various aspects of geographic space-based power genealogy is carried out through the following steps. A) Break points of discourse should be determined to understand its historicity. Spatial forms and processes are representations of a period of historical discourse and its subsequent recognition is not separate from it. B) It should be determined when the discourse

has impacts on the other aspect of geographical space. The emergence of antagonism of the dominant discourse represents a kind of social "dislocation" and during that time, the tendency to disintegrate the existing discourse and replacing it with a new discourse has emerged. Consequently, it would allow the emergence of new subjects and articulations in the geographical space.

5. Conclusion

Space is major paradigm in geographical sciences and different aspect of geographical sciences show the relation between human and environment that produce the space. But, space has different meaning in distinct cognition schools. In other word, every school could make different solution to resolve the issues on the space. So, the solutions that presented by post positivism are distinct from solutions that was presented by another methodology. Form another side, the evolution of human wisdom considers collective action coordinated as only way to overcome on the issues in the geographical space. So, relations between politics and space are shaped only by authority and the rule of one class as a political dominant class over other social classes. As a result, the post positivism methodology has to be used for studying of ideology and political construction effects on other dimensions of geographical space.

Keywords: Politics, Geographic Space, Cognition, Relativity, Discourse.

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