

## Postmodernism

If on the one side Modernism rejected the need of God's existence , on the other it considered reason sufficient to understand the nature of life and man.

It believed in some universal ethical standards.

Postmodernism may be considered a reaction against that confidence in reason. If there is no God up there we are alone here. We are finite and this is not a problem because the same concept of finite is a barrier that can never be leapt.. According to Postmodernists there is nothing above us there is no transcendent reality. Therefore there is no objective truth available to us. We are finite, limited people in a particular space and time.

The fundamental point is therefore that there is no way to have access to objective truth and it follows that there is no possibility to really know anything. The brain may therefore be considered only an organism that can be known through an experiment in a laboratory.

Human beings have only got Language.

According to Nietzsche's metaphor "god is dead" and therefore the sun having been removed from the horizon there can only be a prophetic vision "truth begins to sink in"

Culture can be therefore identified as annoying and crumbling brings with it a certain scepticism that is uncertainty and relativism because of the loss of trust into standards.

Also Postmodernism holds the idea that an individual never can be free since he/she can only see things by her/his background and this is what affects any idea he/she can make up of things. Everything can only be seen through those glasses. Individual background works therefore as a sort of colour blindness, as a set of prejudices.

There can therefore exist only Communities of Knowledge that share their own prejudices. This situation isolates her/him as a single knower. It follows that each person is trapped and can never come out of it.

It is very difficult to get into somebody's language Words are in fact constantly slipping and each interpretation comes through one's prejudices.

In short, according to Postmodernists, reason is a weak tool and cannot lead through knowledge. In opposition to Modernists who believed in truth and ethical standards, Postmodernism is firmly convinced that reason will never lead to truth. Rather reason and the claim of knowledge are weapons used by the powerful at the expense of the powerless. This makes communication extremely difficult since reason is bound by the subjectivity of the individual: it is a weapon to be used in the CULTURAL WAR. Knowledge itself may be interpreted as a kind of colonialism, knowledge used to attack other people..

So being optimistic cannot but turn out as a form of folly especially if you consider the destructiveness of nuclear weapons, technological advances that very often dehumanize people, there follows a lack of creativeness and the real sense of community seems to have disappeared..

There is on the contrary pluralism: descriptive pluralism that is we are living in a society with a vast diversity, different races, cultures religions, that is with a plurality of ways of looking at life.

We are the most diverse society culture has ever seen. There is also relativistic pluralism in the sense there is not one view of reality that makes full sense of the world. There is no one truth but various ways of seeing the world we use words in different ways. Also legislative pluralism whereas the law upholds pluralism.