

The Issues of Alienation in the Philosophy of Erich Fromm

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Abstract

This article analyzes the issues of alienation in the philosophy of Erich Fromm. The development of capitalism has changed the political, economic, and spiritual relationships in the society, and depression, misery, helplessness and solidarity are increasing in people. The philosopher has shown the causes of separation and alienation from the society and ways to get rid of it.

Key words: Liberty; Capitalism, Alienation; Loneliness; Depression; Special people; Beliefs; Religion; Society; Social relations

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INTRODUCTION

Western philosophy of the twentieth century has had a strong impact on the formation of new thinking and outlook, deep-seated minds and great-hearted people. From this point of view, the functioning of creativity, especially of Erich Fromm, plays an important role. In the creation of Erich Fromm, issues such as high moral qualities of human values – ethics, freedom, brotherhood, perfect humanity- were promoted.

The modern capitalist society freed people from the boundaries of the Middle Ages, but the problems of those who had been liberated continued to grow. Freedom from

Fromm is deeply rooted conception of modern society, and it removes human beings from the society, even if it is the will of expressing “liberty from something” – the mental, emotional, inward, and freedom of the people. In addressing the problems that arise in the industrialized and capitalist society, Fromm’s concept of alienation is important and we aim to cover it.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The work of Erich Fromm in scientific literatures, for example, in philosophy-historical literatures was analyzed with distinctive style and deserved way to his era by great West philosophers. We can give more examples for this and can find answers which can answer today’s demands from their brilliant ideas.

For example, we can show the works, articles, researches, brochures of many Russian researchers S.I.Belikowski, E.P.Yushkin, A.F.Zotov, A.M.Rutkevich, Yu.K.Mellvill and others who tried to describe the Fromm’s creation works. Including, in this researches is described the horizon of great philosopher, teachings about human being and social-moral heritage of mankind.

There are works which brought a great ambitious to Fromm such as “Escape from freedom” (1941), “Man for himself” (1947), “Forgotten language” (1951) “The art of love” (1956), “The heart of man” (1964), “The revolution of hopes” (1968), “To have or to be” (1976) which can be essential source for research.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study emerged the idea of scientific and philosophical principles, such as systematics, theoretical and deductive conclusions, analysis and synthesis, historical and logical analysis, hermeneutical analysis, inheritance, universalism and nationality, comparative analysis and the idea of development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of capitalism changed political, economic, and spiritual relationships, and liberated society from its moral bondage. Many states have their own electoral system and the principle that the electorate has the right to be free and equal, irrespective of their sex, occupation or status. During the feudal period, a farmer was born in a farmer's family and had to become a servant when he was born in slave family. Women today are also leaders in large corporations and states. Due to the rapid social and economic development, family ties and family values began to diminish in the eighteenth century. Concepts related to family, such as obedience, piety, and commitment to life, have lost true meaning (Marx, 1970). After the first and second world wars, young people do not care for their parents and can do whatever they want. In the Middle Ages, the family was condemned to betrayal and disobedience. It is hard to control family members, children are free, and parents and children are in a bad situation. Children do not worry about the need to care for old parents, but divorce is becoming easier (Fromm, 1941).

As Fromm put it forward, people have created their own world, houses, factories. It produces cars and clothes. Science and technology have greatly increased people's productivity. This has led to a further rise in urbanization and industrialization. Nevertheless, as a result of the use of technology, productivity, labor, history and people have been under the control of modern society. Hence, the way people live is connected with the change in society, and the human being considers it natural phenomenon. The balance of life of the people depends on the brand and the exchange. If a company falls in bankruptcy, the life of a worker is in danger, but the worker cannot do anything. That is, society's activities are contrary to humanity, and in this case, man abuses his work. According to Fromm, the attitude of the workers to themselves and to others in the capitalist environment is very widespread and close personal relationships are not developed. For example, a worker, working with the other, does not care about his partner's privacy and emotions but does his job well. He rejoices to know that if he gets upset, he will stop him from raising his partner. These incidents cause a rise in alienation among people. Fromm is based on the ideas of modern society. The competition unites people, but alienate them from each other. It combines human beings physically, that is, people work in factories and study in educational institutions. But they are emotionally and spiritually unrelated, and the heart becomes strangers. Fromm said that the competition would cause fraudulent smile on the market. Children and young people are forced to participate in competitions required for economic development of the country. How many of them read what they are reading and why they are reading? How many of them believe in the life of the reader?

"Alienation", which is the enemy of modern people, is a form of industrialization. Many fraudulent tariffs, points of view, and science research are available, and Ignaz Feirlytts argues that the essence of alienation is based on distancing itself. In other tariffs, this world refers to despair, difficulty, misery, helplessness, indecision, and sometimes separation. According to Fromm, man will consider himself as the centre of the world and the creator of the process. This idea is the central point of modern society. The relative kinship is an automated alienation, each one approaching the team, ensuring its own safety, but not one of them. As a result, he feels lonely and disturbed.

According to Fromm, a person who is alienated to a society does not feel loneliness at all, but as a result of the alienation, a person is also alienated from his own emotions. According to the intellectuals, human beings firstly alienated themselves from their own identity, and the alienation based on the development of technology has become a new historical phenomenon; Secondly, they are alienated from society. Alienation from society was dependent on specific culture and socio-economic situation; Thirdly, he was alienated from God.

From the above considerations, Fromm's philosophy is a) a social system study of industrial society; b) a characteristic of the production of goods; c) technologic psychology; d) human nature; e) alienation; f) analysis and review of the political system of the totaliration state.

The views of Fromm about the phenomenon of alienation in society are different from that of Carl Mark. Mark points out that social change is a step toward socialism, and Fromm emphasizes that social change is not going to leave socialism, but to the opposite. Although Fromm Freud has revised and perfected human psychology, he does not focus on the sophisticated economic foundation developed by Mark. The Fromm concept of alienation is based on Mark and its description of capitalist society is important in understanding the phenomenon of alienation. It is therefore desirable to analyze the basis of Mark's views. According to Marx, modern society is characterized by the character of each person as a commodity exchange. Human relations are important in terms of commodity and exchange, and emotional and aspects fall to the fall to the second. Although there is a complete barrier to economic factors, human relationships can be interrupted or stopped at any time for economic reasons. Marx emphasizes that commodity turnover can strengthen selfishness and make people cheat. In addition, creating new needs requires more effort, and only self-centered thinking in the pursuit of the goal will further aggravate. People sacrifice humanely beautiful relationships and feelings to satisfy their selfish needs. Marx stresses that value based on money and commodity turnover is a power that changes the relationship between people and society.

He changes loyalty to the treachery, love to hatred, goodness to evil, and wisdom to foolishness. Money also changes personality and sheds human relationships. Fromm believes that in a society where market relations are formed, it is difficult to be kind and responsible. A solution to the problem of alienation in the conditions of capitalism is the solution of the brotherhood. Fromm emphasizes that modern society's people should love and adapt themselves to liberate themselves from loneliness. He believes that selfishness in a person who develops his ability to love. Fromm compares the appearance, positive and negative aspects of freedom in the medieval and modern society, created the idea of a fictional society that has been criticized by many. As we have already pointed out, it is urgent to form a society that is based on brotherhood, instead of the present-day society. The basic idea of the Apostles in the issue of alienation is the idea of freedom. The capitalist society has set men free in economic and political spheres, but has become spiritually dependent, alienated, and transformed into a lonely people. Fromm, modern man has not been able to free himself. It is a reflection of his emotional and intellectual power. Humanity has freed its religious outlook and has lost its inner faith even though it has formed a new faith. Modern man does not believe anything without proof. Incompatible with science paradigms, emotional and intuitive beliefs are denied. Although humanity has achieved freedom of expression, most of its commendations are those that are thought-provoking and speaking, that is, through their own thinking, and the freedom of thought has not been given to them. According to Fromm, the reason for this is the existence of anonymous power over public opinion and common sentiment. The media, along with information delivery, also disseminates the same ideas.

It is manipulator of the intellectual power of modern society. Fromm says that today's humanity has achieved only the negative side of freedom, and has not gained a positive freedom. "Capitalism should not be liberated from the traditional bondage of humanity, but to active, creative, and positive liberty" (Marx, 1975). Today, people have demonstrated their freedom in social activities and in different political activities. There is a choice for people to work in the area they are looking for, and they do not have to spend all their lives on what they have done, whatever their ancestors did. In society, they also enjoyed the negative feelings of comfort and security. Students need to learn a lot, so there is no time left to think. From this side of the world, human beings have either been naturally victimized or have been liberated more negatively. Fromm believes that the solution to the problem of loneliness in a highly developed society is that it is impossible to have psychoanalytic treatment with everyone, and that capitalist society needs to be rebuilt. He recommends to name "the construction of an abandoned and isolated

problem of loneliness and the name of humanitarian collective socialism". Socialist society will be designing on the basis of creative activity that creates economic freedom. Fromm says which kind of society to build, he does not say how to build a society. Sociologist A. S. Garbuzov explains Fromm's views as follows. "Those who have been able to overcome the feeling of alienation begin to shape the need for collective socialism. It means that without gradual division, humanist socialism is replaced by revolutionary capitalism." (Garbuzov, 1985). According to Garbuzov, each of those who have overcome alienation is "new people" who have internal freedom and happiness. Fromm's view of the society is that instead of capitalism social relations are built on the basis of sincerity and brotherly love. But from criticizes people trying to "escape" the present problems.

He was hoping for humanity. He cares about human capabilities for growth and development of man and fights against the destructive tendencies.

It emphasizes the need to change some social and psychological perspectives for the formation of a spiritually mature person by studying the link between social behaviors and violence. Fromm believes that a new human being, who combines harmonious qualities, can create a new society.

From Fromm's book "The art of love" states that love is a solution to alienation, emphasizing that "love is a satisfactory and only logical answer to the question of human existence." How can love solve the problem of alienation? "From Fromm to question, it emerges from the need to overcome loneliness and leads to integrity." Love can help a person feel united with other people and the world, and releases his alienation.

Fromm differentiates several kinds of love, emphasizing that the love of brotherhood is important to society. Brotherhood is based on responsibility, care, and respect. This kind of love is based on the idea that all people should love each other because they have the same essence, history, and homosexual feelings (Fromm, 1966).

CONCLUSION

In a capitalistic society, no one is interested in one's own interests. In this society, the desire to abandon all the things that a person might possess, the feeling of greed and greed is diminished. Is it possible to build a pure brotherhood in a capitalistic society? The first thing to do is to build self-love, to release self-esteem. Because self-love and love of others are invisible. If a person loves himself, he can love others. So, if you love someone, you will be able to love all mankind. In the process of egoism and self-exacerbation in a capitalist society, it is still an urgent task to form a brotherly love.

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