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SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF REALITY

AUTHOR :PETER L.BERGER AND THOMAS LUCKMANN

RELEVANCE:A sociological analysis of the reality of everyday life;
more precisely of knowledge that guides conduct in everyday life.

MEANING OF EVERYDAY WORLD

- Everyday life is objectively and subjectively meaningful and is internalized as 'reality'. Decoding the dynamics of this process of internalization is the main object of this present work.
- Everyday world is given to people especially in the episteme of regular phenomena in their thought process.
- The world is composed of multiple realities, imbibed by human consciousness. Only one among the many appear reality "par excellence."

PHENOMENOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

- Phenomenological analysis keeping in sync with Durkhemean mode of enquiry is free from all pre conceived notions of reality.
- Common sense on the other hand is defined by pre supposed juxtapositions.
- Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann comment “the reality of everyday life is organized around the ‘here’ of my body and the ‘now’ of my present. This is the ‘realissimum’ of people’s consciousness.

NEAR AND FAR ZONES

- Everyday world is amenable to phenomenological analysis on the basis of “near zones” and “far zones”.
- In our taken for granted world, near and far zones are intermittently intertwined and work in unison to create subjectively meaningful wholes.
- Space and Time characterize our everyday world.
- Spatial world has social connotations associated and temporal aspects are intrinsically associated with our inner consciousness.

FACE TO FACE INTERACTIONS

- Face to face interactions are flexible. It follows no regular, dogmatic super imposed patterns.
- In other modes of interactions that includes 'contemporaries', attitudinal misconceptions can be debunked.
- The physical distance maintained in the latter case adds on to the flavour of non compliance to typifications associated with interactional procedures.

DIFFERENTIAL EXPERIENCE

- There is a differential level of experience in face to face direct and other modalities of interaction pattern.
- In face to face situations ,direct evidence of attitudes and reflections are inferred ,not experienced with the ‘contemporaries’.
- Face to face interactions take place mostly with the “inner circle”.
- Interactions with contemporaries are on the other end of the interactional scale; attitudes are difficult to interpret.

PREDECESSORS AND SUCCESSORS

- Besides direct and indirect experience, successors and predecessors also form a group that will help the ego in relating to his society.
- Typifications define the relations with past consociates and future associates.
- Typifications with posterity are devoid of individual content ;that with the predecessors have content though mythical in nature.

LANGUAGE AND MEANING

- Language has its origins in the face to face situations.
- It has the unique power to convey meanings and synchronize with sounds that create an intersubjective world.
- The production of sound can also be synchronized with the inherent meanings associated with the vocalizations of conversants.

LANGUAGE AS THE BRIDGE

- Language possesses an inherent quality of reciprocity that distinguishes itself from other sign system.
- Vocalisations and intentions of the actors can be actively synchronized simultaneously.
- Language has the transcendent power to submerge the “here and now” realities.
- It can therefore be the bridge to reduce the gap between manipulatory zone and other zones of intimacy beyond the former.

CONCLUSION

- The reality of everyday world is both taken for granted and also amenable to interpretative understanding.
- The modality and the content of interaction guides the procedures of social interactions.
- Berger and Luckmann thus aptly make it clear that everyday reality is socially constructed and meaningfully engaged therein.

Thank You

