Anthony Giddens and Relationship Between Political Ideas with Social Cognitions
Abdollah Rasekhi
Department of political sciences, College of low and political sciences, Takestan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Takestan, Iran.

A R T I C L E  I N F O
Article history:
Received 30 August 2014
Received in revised form 17 November 2014
Accepted 25 November 2014
Available online 8 December 2014
Keywords:

A B S T R A C T
Social cognition is discussed in sociology, social thought and political philosophy. Cognition Sociology was born in Germany and developed in England, Italy and United State. In the present study, relationship between political ideas with social cognitions in analyzed in the constructivism school’s framework. Constructivism viewpoint was in methodological processes framework and is presented in sociology, psychology and international relations. Thinkers of social constructivism school include the: Anthony Giddens, Paul Michel Foucault, Jaques Lacan, Niklas Luhmann, Ernest Von Glasersfeld, and Margaret Archer. In the present research, the manner of political ideas creation by the social cognitions with using structuration theory is analyzed. Also the data collected by the library method and analyzed by using from the constructivism.

© 2014 AENSI Publisher All rights reserved.


INTRODUCTION
The questions follows up in this paper are as following: what are the idea, political idea and ideology? What is the difference between the idea and thought? What is the relationship between the idea and ideology? What are the cognition, social cognition, epistemology, social epistemology and sociology? The main problem of this study includes the: relation between political ideas with social cognitions? Idea means thought, belief, comment, imagination, conjecture, intent and meaning. Difference between the idea and thought is that the idea is beyond from the thought and have more conceptual dimension. Is this idea that shows them in the thought not into the thought. Movement from thought is excelled the idea. Ideas are the thought’s results. Also the idea is formed beside the people [1]. Idea includes the thought in public thinking. Therefore politic idea includes the thoughts, concepts and withdrawals in public minds which implies to the politic and political subjects. Ideology means in public as the total ideas and includes the people’s beliefs. Ideology means as the idea cognition. When we talk about the ideology, our purpose will be a set of ideas or beliefs or group impacts. The most comprehensive ideology type names sometimes as the World-View. Cognition means understanding or perception or receiving something. In social affairs, knowledge is formed in social or public and finally will become as a scientific mind. Categories which are considered in the knowledge theory have social aspect. Social cognitions is the understanding of this problem that social abecedarian will reflect in personal cognitions. Social cognitions play a role in social facts’ formation. Epistemology includes the research in the field of properties, limitations, structures and our knowledge value of the world. Social epistemology means that social aspects penetrate on cognition outcomes. Epistemology communicate with the history’s thoughts and how historical thought revolution from epistemology’s aspect in the society.

Our discussion is not that to decrease the political ideas to the social ideas and we are not up to mention that political ideas are without value and are social constructs, so these ideas, are social basics resulted from different effective agency's which can’t behave with them in a neutral way. In relationship between political ideas with social cognitions we can state that two attitudes can be existed in this topic: first, ideas circulate in the political analysis. Second, political ideas will be considered in the social cognitions relationship. In the present study the second one will be analyzed. Between the social events and ideas there is a relation. In this paper political thoughts’ sociology basics will be analyzed and how these political ideas will relate to the social world, but the point is how this relation is connected? The main problem actually is that how relation between social cognitions and political ideas is connected? The problem in radiation of constructivism school will be mentioned which what is the constructivism theory about the idea and cognition? What kind of relationship ideas can have

Corresponding Author: Abdollah Rasekhi, Department of political sciences, College of low and political sciences, Takestan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Takestan, Iran.
E-mail: Rasekhi1352iran@gmail.com
with the truth? We are up to find a theory by trying to find an appropriate theory which can prepare the correct answer’s possibility with the main question which can enable us to explore the hidden angles and unseen social cognitions relationship with the political ideas. We go for Giddens the famous sociologist. It seems that by using from structuration theory, conditions can be prepared which we are up to after explanation of relationship between the social cognitions and political ideas to answer these questions.

In the present study political problems from the conceptual viewpoint and in methodological and structurational aspects will be analyzed. This paper can considerably help for revision in classical and modern epistemology basics, and will be an interdisciplinary collaboration such as sociology and social thoughts/sociology and philosophy. Being innovative is the necessity and importance of the present study. So new aspects will increase its importance. Innovative aspects of the study are as following: utilization from the techniques and new methodologies (constructivism and epistemology) for social cognition, emphasized on the new achievements which is formed in the social science’s philosophy framework and mentioning them in the political science framework, includes the new definition of relationship between subject and object, and political ideas analysis according to the social science methods, more attention to the present relationship between social political revolutions with political conceptualize. Social-political revolutions include the person’s role in society and its revolution during the history, emphasizes on the intersubjectivity and transposition of the subject and object postulates. So the agent in structuration theory and by having the knowledge (wisdom), awareness and cognition (commentary role to the world), wisdom, volition, skill, purposeful praxis and continual supervision or revision in changing subjects to the agency so that have the ability for change and its effectiveness is more in structure and society. The main question of this study includes the: how social cognitions can form the political ideas? Sub-questions includes the: what is the relationship between the social cognitions and political ideas? What is the relation between the social cognitions and structures and benefits? The main hypothesis of the paper includes the: social cognitions are formed through the structures and interests and will lead to formation of the political ideas. Variables are as following: structures and interests (independent variable), social cognitions (mediation variable), political ideas (independent variable). Sub hypotheses are as following: social cognitions will lead to formation the political ideas; social cognitions effective from structures and interests.

2. Constructivism school:

Constructivism is as a way of understanding and thought school in the heart of the problem which will recognize the observer of world-how. Constructivism points to the special understanding people form from the truth. In constructivism belief the person means the self praxis with environment and the world will experience and the truth will be formed. By analyzing the roots and origins of constructivism, we can explore the presence method in the history. Manus according to this method analyzed the constructivism topics by comparison of the Sophists and Socrates origins. Sophists, these teachers in movement believe that cognition can be achieved through the rhetoric and modeling. By this cognition belief, is in out of person and can be achieved in polis and through a vast population of people. While Socrates believed that learning is inner experience. Giambattista Vico in 1710 published a thesis about the cognition’s construction. In this thesis, he mentioned this belief that creates the cognition recognizer. Vico in this belief was attended to the events between the truth, cognition and human tendency to the creation of cognition (knowledge). Therefore constructivism term is indebted the Vico’s thought. Because the human will know the things that he created. In the contemporary period this praxis had the basic role in cognition process and idea. Here the cognition based upon the constructivism viewpoint will bind itself to the reality. Constructivism basic connection with the reality is the mutual praxis and interaction concept out of mind. Like the contemporary constructivists, with affecting from Socrates, will highlight the process and cognition how so can make peace between the agent and structure [2].

According to the constructivism, the material world exists, but the subjects and agents seize in fact. During the transition from the material affairs to the meaning that the agency appears. In constructivism, beliefs were formed the meaning. Believing to this formation, therefore constructivism separates itself from positivism, because positivism it was not willing that the beliefs and value is into the cognition problem. In other words, in positivism, beliefs and values are seen as a problem. While the constructivism looks to the belief and value like a reality. From the constructivism perspective, has subjective sense value to the past and communicate with our looking how to the world. So when we enter onto a value, we will create our reality based on the value. From subject’s aspect in traditional view, researcher’s purpose and intent is important and here researcher’s interactions are significance and conceptual sectors are dependant to these praxis.

As the constructivism is the involved with cognition formation how, we can’t decrease it as cognition instruments. Therefore we can say that constructivism how the formation cognition not the impact method with cognition realities. Social constructivism by emphasize on the context, will reject the verity and emphasize on everything that created from social affairs. Existence is not analysis basics but becoming is raised. In social constructivism, social phenomenon have social genesis. Social constructivism base is the collection out of subjective and community which is known as the interpretation. Conferencing the mind and community and its hermeneutics will construct the world. There is no truth in the text and we are drowning in truth and interpret the
truth. World is created due to the interpretation and we are interpretive of the interpretation. The truth is not considerable according to the verity and false behind it. In social constructivism there is discussed on the manner of finding the relation meaning with the environment. Therefore is common sociology and social psychology. Also public aspect for construction the reality is discussed and interactive relationship between the personal knowledge to the world and social-cultural environment is considered [3].

In structuralism the priority is with the structure and we face with the totality. In against in constructivism, there is a moderate view between the agent and structure. So these two, will grant to each other consistency and determination in a mutual mode, without granting one side objectivity, which means that while the capability and presence of human agents are considered dependent to the context of social structure, this structural context is the agents’ presence and interaction products and not that the independence from human activities. Agent and the structure in each dialectical entity will bind to each other. For constructivists, the structure and agent will grant strength to each other. Social structures are the wanted and unwanted results of human interaction. Structures are created as the phenomenon rather stable with mutual interact and according to them will define their identities and agency’s interests. The structure is separated from the process, which means that is not separated from the agencies’ procedures [4]; [5]. Here constructivists greatly are affected by the Anthony Giddens and structuration theory’s comments.

About the constructivism and relationship between political ideas with social cognitions we can say that from the constructivism view, ideas won’t form without the reality and play a role in analysis. The reality is a moderate affair and the agency play a role in formation. So constructivism’s reality is a mind created reality and this mind communicate to the community. Social affair is social constitution. Affair cognition is not only in mind also having social basic and will bind in collectivity. Therefore with this basis, we can say from the reality construction in social affair framework which is reflected in cognition.

3. Structuration theory and relationship political ideas with social cognitions:

Positivists and structuralists such as Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx and Talcott Parsons are believed that it can be known human in the frame of human structure. Non-positivists look at both micro and macro levels can be studied. The first involves the hermeneutic looking and the second includes Marxist view. At the micro level, human relationships at the individual level is checked. The individual means affairs that deal with agent. Consequence of the structure – agent and the result of its development is the importance of finding the concept of agency. In Jean Paul Carles Aymard Sartre, Herbert Blumer and Erving Goffman’s opinions, the relationship of structure with agent is raised. In new schools like Giddens Structuration’s Theory have no priority to structure and no to praxis. In the relationship of structure and agent and in numerous patterns we are facing a phenomenon as Inter relation of agent and structure. Explanatory factors emphasized on structure and the ones who emphasized on Hermeneutic like George Herbert Mead and Herbert Blumer had also emphasized on Praxis and agent and they individually more believed that there is no praxis beyond the individual.

Giddens in political sociology of structure – agent points out Structurations theory. He says that the review of research in the social sciences or history, must relate the praxis to structure. Absolutely it is not true to say that structure determines the praxis and vice versa [6]. In new schools, it has no priority structure and no praxis. According to Giddens, seven features in Structuralism are of importance from the perspective of Anglo-Saxon sociology: First, structuralism theory indicates significance of spacing through difference in the structure of language and society. Second, structuralism theory tries to analyze the time aspect in its center. Third, in structuralism theory historism leads to a form of relativism. Fourth, structuralism theory offers a more convincing understanding of social totality to functionalism perspective. Fifth, structuralism theory attempts for going beyond the duality of subject and object to its two-dimensional of both. Sixth, structuralism theory reviews to critique humanism and the decenterism matter of subject. Seventh, structuralism theory has a prominent role in the analysis of cultural objects produce [7].

Giddens emphasized with agency the human factors empower so that agency can influence the social world. In his belief, the power has the logical priority on mentality because praxis requires power or ability to change the situation. Consequence of the structure – agent and the result of its development form of is the importance of finding the concept of agency. Agent has characteristics: Agent is the factor of change; Agent is the capacity to do the changes. Agency is not a type of alterability of pre-given affairs but is a pre-given structure and praxis has oriented in it. Agent has knowledge and his/her knowledge effective in development world. Agent has the ability to change the structure with his/her own knowledge. Agent has the cognition and awareness. Agent has an interpretive role to the world and has skills. Agent has the ability to do things and have role of agency. The human possesses the will and agency. The human takes command of his/her own wisdom, hence he cannot be integrated as an agent in structure and clearly this point is tangible in the works of Nietzsche, Weber, Simmel and Giddens. Agent engages at social experience based on social cognition and awareness. Structures are also the results of praxis’s that are built in social experience. The agent lies in the process of construction and reconstruction according to the elements of time and place. Knowing, skill and intention is very important for operant. On one hand, praxis’s are important too and is constantly repeated in life. Subject is related to our
knowledge than the world but agency is associated with our praxis in the world. Other characteristics of agent is monitoring that will review its own praxis’s by continuously rethinking. Structure puts its own impact through rules, financial resources and power. Social phenomenon can be structured. The structure shapes the social life. Giddens agrees with Foucault here. Structure is imperative on one hand and on the other hand has the ability. Social systems exhibit structural features. Rules and resources are shown in both the macro level of social systems and micro-level of human consciousness. Social systems are developed in time and space. According to Giddens, agent can be in three states of consciousness when making praxis: First, it is reasoning consciousness with the feature of Mead review that involve the idea of Dewey pragmatism. Second, the practical consciousness of Freud subconscious mind in which agent does the praxis according social construction. Third, hidden awareness that results in praxis based on the need in emergency situations. Three forms of mentioned awareness are the ferments of cognition and agent's consciousness is external realities that help people as the structural contexts, social cognition for appropriate praxis in different realities [6].

In Structuration Theory, structures are constantly making and development. Likewise, structures are necessary factors in producing the praxis. The concept of Structurations contains two-dimensional routing structure that expresses the mutual dependence of structure and agency. The two-dimensional structure means that Structural properties of social systems are the mediation and product of deeds that are constructing the systems. Subject and subject have similar structural features according to this conception. Structure forms personality and society simultaneously. Here Giddens agrees with Foucault. Structurations theory emphasizes on organizing institutions at the time and space. According to Giddens, institutions are set of functions that include political, economical institutions, symbolic orders and rules. In structurations theory, changing the institutions is of special importance along with the time and space. Also, researchers are sensitive to the practices of leaders' involvement in various institutions and their role in changing the social patterns. Additionally, theorists have been sensitive about the impact of their findings on social world and consider it [8].

Giddens also deals with the power. In his opinion, the power in two meanings can be related to the interaction. On the one hand, the power involves in the process of interaction institutionally and on the other hand, it is used to get the outcomes in strategic behavior. The concept of praxis is associated with the concept of power reasonably so that the recent conception such as a transformational capability will be understood. In the philosophy of praxis, it is relied on the concepts of ability and authority. The intervention of intended-oriented is one of the categories of actions or refusing the agent. Power as a transformational capability can be attributed to the ability to access such consequences. Of course, it can be said that the power in Hobbes, with little difference in Weber and recently in Robert A. Dahl writings will be considered as the representative of intentional or determination-based praxis’s. Here the power will be described based on capacity or ability of activists to achieve wanted or desirable results. On the other hand, according to the belief of other authors including different figures such as Hannah Arendt, Talcott Parsons and Nicos Poulantzas, the power is especially social collective feature. Medium in which thereby common interests or class interests will be achieved. According to Peter Bashrhak and Merten Baratz, the power having mobilizing face tends to occur in institutions. Steven Michael Lucks defines the power as the ability of an activist or group for affecting on the other despite the others' interests. Conceptually power is placed between the broader perceptions of transformational capacity and dominance. The power has acted by transformational capacity and is related to human agency. The power is the ability that is created by structures of dominance. Power refers to the ability of activists to achieving results that the substantiation of results depend on the others agency. Power in social system requires reproduced autonomy and dependence in social interaction. Application of power often irritates conflict or occurs in the text of conflict. This is because of significant relationships that often exist among power, conflicts of interests. Interests are deemed the basis of demands. Power and conflict have a linkage together relatively like power and substantiation of interests and this linkage are random [7].

In structuration theory’s critique, Ritzer quoted from the Ian Craib which is believed that: firstly, Giddens in emphasizes on social functions, has no ontological depth and he won’t consider dominant social structures on social worlds. Secondly, his efforts for finding a theoretical combination with social world’s complexity have not considerable fitness and for this purpose requires different theories’ types which maybe is not compatible with each other. Third, structuration theory for modern society critical analysis has not an appropriate basic. Fourth, Giddens eclecticism force him for accumulating theoretical wreckage types which has no necessary cohesion [9]. Also Margaret Archer believes that the structure and agency although become intertwined in social world but are separated from each other from analysis viewpoint. Simultaneously considering both sides will lead that we limit ourselves from the mutual analysis probability during the time. Also structuration theory has no final result [10]. According to the author’s belief, Giddens in structuration theory analyze the Explanation of the dialectical relationship between human and society and interaction is the necessary factor in structure reconstruction. Here the critique that can be inserted into his theory from structuration view, is this critique that Giddens neglected the reproduction principle and attended more to the freedom and human’s authority.

About the structuration theory and its relationship with the political ideas and social cognitions we can say that structuration theory’s purpose is to highlight the mutual dialectic relationship and dual agency and structure.
Giddens comments on dialectic process that during this process, the structure and awareness create. He believes that the cognition should be understood according to the practical and speech awareness. In this area we can say that there will be created a relationship between the practical awareness or cognitive in agency science rather than performing the affairs and agencies’ speech will be formed and they are able to talk to each other. Also they create the agencies’ skill which is the society members. Practical awareness requires the actions that are agencies’ behaviors reflector and have high importance for structuration theory.

4. Conclusion:

Constructivism school show itself in three truth and reality, reason and beliefs fields. Constructivism school emphasizes on the research in how social-political reality’s construction in mind and will put it as the truth cognition basic. From the Constructivism view, ideas won’t form without the reality. Contemporary realities are our values’ construction. Ideas are totally in mind and this mind will communicate with the Community. In constructivism belief, cognition is a mind’s subject which is formed in collective. Constructivism will form the cognition formation.

In structuration theory there is a moderate relationship between the structure and agent. So continual structure is forming and changing. Giddens is in the dialectical hermeneutical position. In his belief, the cognition should be understood according to the practical and speech awareness. He also believes that the agent should have three awareness positions: reasoning awareness, practical awareness, hidden awareness. Laws, financial sources and power are the essence of the agents’ cognition (awareness). Agents will enter the social experience by social cognition.

About relationship between political ideas and social cognitions according to the constructivism school and structuration theory, we can mention that constructivism will offer the first relationship in this by usage from the bilateral concept. Because these keys will counterpoise the structure and benefits into the mutual praxis and interaction area. The reality between the people has high importance. Giddens in structuration theory, define the substructure with the structure. While the basic is not structure, although the structure is effective. More ever to the structure and interests, other factors such as power in political ideas creation are affected by the social cognitions.

REFERENCES