A study on development in concept of Alienation in sociological theory

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Abstract

Alienation refers to one of the major concepts of sociology that each of the sociologists have examined concept of alienation regarding the intellectual and epistemological features at their period. From point of view of psychologists and sociologists, the conditions undergoing capitalism affect the person's personality and self-alienation occurs when the person does not know himself as creator of his actions and his deeds and outcomes of his deeds dominate him instead he dominates his deeds. Sociologists believe that the cause of alienation at sociological areas should be searched in social realities, symbols, structures and social relations. In the present research, development in the concept of alienation in sociological theories since the second half of 19th to end of 20th has been examined.

Keywords: Alienation, self-alienation, capital, job division.
Introduction
The term of alienation has been regarded as one of the most difficult terms in dictionary of most of scientists and scholars in research areas of theoretical sciences and mentioned as one of the major concepts in sociology, psychology and social psychology. The term of alienation has developed at various orientations and has been found in various dimensions. For instance, in the past the term “Alienation” considered same as self-Alienation and known synonym with anomia. Further, it has been being mentioned as an intellectual state(Marx, Dourkim) and sometimes as an objective problem. Zeithamli has assumed it stagnant at the time and assumed it mixed dialectical for which motion aspect has been considered. Some have considered it natural, normal, creative and useful and some have considered it an antisocial phenomenon (Dourkim). Some have known it as the cause of external agents or products of social realities and some have known it arisen from movements Inner rogue forces. A group has proposed it in evaluating their feelings to themselves and a group has proposed it in evaluating individuals’ feelings against society. It has been sometimes called cause and sometimes effect.

The trajectory of historical view of sociological concept of self-alienation
Hegel
Hegel could be mentioned as the first scientist who has mentioned the philosophical and extensive discussion on concept of alienation. Hegel’s analysis from alienation refers to a systematic and subjective aspect. Hegel assumes alienation as an intellectual reality used it as the concept of human’s alienation from awareness and known exclusion from alienation and arrival to awareness only through understanding (art, religion and philosophy).

Alienation in marx’s theories: Marx’s Alienation theory is about capitalism. From point of view of Marx, growth of capitalism and private ownership are the causes of alienation. However Marx’s ideas have grounded on materialism and originality of thought in this world, in his ideas we face manifestations of philosophical thought, romantic thought and metaphysical thought of Hegel and anthropological thought of Feuerbach.

Emile Durkheim
One of the impressions from self-alienation mentioned by Durkheim has been taken from Anomie and paid attention to normative terms. Emile Durkheim has referred to the transfer of society from mechanical state to organic cohesion and examined the effects in form of normative expression and chaotic disorder in social rules, relations and regulations.

Marx Weber: Marx Weber believes that bureaucracy causes corruption in industrial society. In these societies, nothing occurs unless under bureaucratic rules which arise from self-alienation.

Talcott Parsons: from point of view of Talcott Parsons, individualism which manifests maladjusted with social norms and reduction of solidarity results in self-alienation and anomic conditions of society cause spread of this alienation and separation of person from the norms in the society.
Robert K. Merto
Merton is among the sociologists who are the pioneer of social reality school tried to display the ways in which abnormal behavior, deviant behavior and pathological behavior are produced via specific forms of social constructionism. Merton considers all forms of behavioral disorders including abnormality and alienation not just as a mental problem and individual problem but also as a social problem arisen from social constructionism.

Georg Simmel
Georg Simmel believes that the gap among individuals increases by development of capitalism system and development of cities so far as the society size and number of individuals increase, causing the man to exclude from emotional and individual belongings and act as an unknown organ under impersonal and abstractive rules of the large society. In this way, the large gap causes the new type of society administrates the individual under their rule not with individual treatments but with non-individual rules and principles which this has caused self-alienation.
Contemporary sociologists (the second half of 20th century)
György Lukács: the man in capitalism society faces the fact that he has built a class. This fact seems a natural phenomenon caused him to be alien.

Karl Mannheim
Karl Mannheim believes that the man at the industrial society has turned to an alien creature under influence of social relations.
Lack of independence, freedom, identity and will of the man has caused him to be in a specific thinking status obliged him to a feeling of loneliness.

Herbert Marcuse
One-dimensional man is a recued man from point of view of Marcuse emptied from his forces in the ring of capitalism system and reduced to one dimension.
Alfred Schütz: Alfred Schütz has referred to two types of societies that the extent of contrast between alienation in face to face relationships is the most important dimension to differentiate two societies. Therefore, the more face to face relationships take place in a society, the alienation among individuals will raise.

Jürgen Habermas
From point of view of Jürgen Habermas, in today’s industrial societies, alienation of the contemporary man is not due to the political exploitation but is the produce of the scientific and technical rationality system. From point of view of Jürgen Habermas, people lacked power from political and economic perspectives in today’s industrial societies and got alien to their benefits, whereby use of instrumental alienation causes alienation.
Erich Fromm: from point of view of Erich Fromm, capitalism conditions affect the person’s personality. Industrial world addresses the human production which is machine, remained self-alien. Self-alienation occurs when the man does not know himself creator of his deeds. To sum up, self-alienation has been mentioned synonym with idolatry in Torah.
Conclusion
Nature and essence of alienation as an interconnected set require reviewing the social and mental factors related to each other. It should pay a particular attention to this fact that the man builds both society and history, found under influence of his products. Therefore, a relationship between man and his products is a dialectical process which should be taken into account at all stages of alienation.
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