Jussi Silvonen

3 ILYENKOV AND FOUCAULT – SOME PARADOXES AND (I)POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS

ABSTRACT
The aim of this chapter is to compare Ilyenkov’s and Foucault’s theories of the Ideal and discursive practices and to ask to what extent they are compatible. It will be claimed that Ilyenkov’s concept of the Ideal opens up a significant developmental perspective beyond a simplistic dichotomy between idealism and materialism. The concept of the Ideal expands Vygotsky’s idea of the zone of proximal development by defining all social relations as potential spaces for expansive activity. By doing so Ilyenkov conceptualise the creative aspect of activity. What is missing in his theory, however, is the analysis of power relations in social reality. It will be claimed that Foucault’s analysis of discursive practices opens up a critical perspective on power-knowledge (the Truth) production as an inherent aspect of all activity. It is claimed that for a proper understanding of social reality a methodology combining developmental perceptive with critical perspective is needed.

IMPOSSIBLE CONNECTIONS?
At the first sight, it might be difficult to see any rational similarities or connections between Ilyenkov and Foucault. On the contrary, it would be easy to state that their philosophical programmes are as different as possible. The former is a Marxist philosopher from the Russian cultural-historical school, the latter a French post-modern critic of Marxism and modern science in general. I will argue, however, that there is at least some interesting conceptual similarity in their work. I shall concentrate on the concept of the Ideal that was in the very heart of Ilyenkov’s philosophical programme (Ilyenkov, 1977a), and on the idea of discursive practices as Truth Games (Foucault, 1991a), which was so fundamental to Foucault.

1 As an introduction to Ilyenkov see (Bakhurst, 1991; Oittinen, 2000; van der Zweerde, 2000).
2 “The whole of Foucault’s work can be seen in terms of genuine struggle with Marx, and ... this can be viewed as one of the driving forces of his productiveness” (Bakhtin, 1992, 39). As an introduction to Foucault see Bribon, 1991; Fink-Eitel, 1992.
Reflection Through Labour

Chapter 3

Ilyenkov, The Philosopher of the Idea

Form given by Marx in the first chapter of Das Kapital (1847-1849) is the starting point of the famous opening of the work. In the next step, Ilyenkov looks at the specific historical form of the idea.

A Form of Existence (The Case of Val'tikov)

On the question: The problem of the ideal, Ilyenkov challenges the orthodox point of view by the conception of the idea as a real social form of existence.

The traditional point of view of reflection theory, presented in every standard textbook of Marxist philosophy is Ilyenkov's starting point.

The problem of the idea

Consequently, the analysis of the ideal needs a historical perspective.

Ilyenkov writes: "An individual is performing the activity in forms given to him by the activity's context. The individual's activity is an integral part of the social forms of activity. The individual's activity is formed by the social forms of activity and is formed by the individual's action." The idea is defined as follows:

By defining the idea of reflection, Ilyenkov's (1977a, 1979) Neorthodoxy, Ilyenkov is perhaps and support the view (Ilyenkov, 1977a, 1979). Nevertheless, Ilyenkov is not content with his solution provided in the reflection dis.

In his essay Ilyenkov gives the following definition of the idea:

The idea is the essential function of the activity of the subject of social relations.

In the following I shall take a closer look at both above-mentioned views - especically the ideas in Ilyenkov's work.

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Ilyenkov's analysis of the problem of reflection is based on his concept of social relations...
A POTENTIAL SPACE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS

Does an individual have the range of the ideal or a potential space for the ideal? Does this apply to the organizational level also?

The range of the ideal and its potential space are the same or different?

The paradoxical result of the above analysis can be understood if we decompose the concept of activity into its two components: (1) the activity of definition and (2) the activity of transformation. The paradoxical result of the above analysis is that the definition of the ideal and the transformation of the ideal are different but complementary processes. The definition of the ideal is a process of creating a potential space for the ideal, while the transformation of the ideal is a process of realizing that potential space.

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Chapter 3

The Nomad, Escaping All Definitions

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The concept of ideal makes for hyperbolic possible to overcome the simple

The Nomad, Escaping All Definitions

1991b (79) The words:

If possible to present the reality of Poucalt’s work in one simple pic-

drawn with strings of to-relate, and understanding the concepts of
 trance, the means, of which are is an addition to the concept of

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Poucalt, THE PHILOSOPHER OF THE TRUTH-POWER

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Figure 3.2, Development of Patron’s authoritarian (Heidelberg et al. 1999, 152)

Power

Knowledge

OT, AK

MC 1

Subject

Chapter 3

Knowledge

Techniques

Games of Power

Techniques

Self

Subj"ect

The Power of Government

Based on the operations of government, the concept of government as a political entity is fundamental to the understanding of political power. The concept of government as a political entity is fundamental to the understanding of political power. The concept of government as a political entity is fundamental to the understanding of political power.

Technologies of Power

Games of Power

Self

Subject

Chapter 3
There are some interesting avenues to integrate American civilization with Buddhist and Hindu thought (see Elgin, 1986). Hocking's (1999) speculations and explorations of this theme are only beginning to be explored. The American West, with its unique blend of cultures, could offer a rich opportunity for a new kind of spiritual exploration.

In conclusion, the cultural-historical field of psychology has made significant contributions to the understanding of development and change. However, it is also true that much remains to be done. Further research is needed to explore the potential of this field in addressing important social and cultural issues. The cultural-historical perspective offers a promising avenue for integrating the insights of anthropology, sociology, and psychology in a coherent and comprehensive way.
CHAPTER 3


to problems that develop during the course of a project. The project of developing research questions and choosing the appropriate research design and methodology can be complex and challenging. It is important to carefully plan and execute these activities to ensure the success of the project. In this chapter, we will provide guidance on developing research questions, selecting the appropriate research design, and choosing the best methodology to conduct the research.

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, we will discuss the importance of developing research questions and selecting the appropriate research design and methodology. It is essential to have a clear understanding of the research question and the methods used to address it. Developing research questions is a critical step in the research process, as it sets the direction for the study and guides the researcher in selecting the appropriate research design and methodology.

METHODS OF DEVELOPING STRESS IN A RAPID-PACE WORK ENVIRONMENT

The rapid pace work environment can be stressful for employees. The pace of work can be fast and require quick decision-making and multitasking. This can lead to stress, burnout, and increased employee turnover. It is important to develop methods to reduce stress in a rapid-pace work environment.

CHALLENGE TO TRADITIONAL THEORIES AND A NEW APPROACH

Traditional theories of stress have been criticized for their inability to adequately address the stress experienced in a rapid-pace work environment. New approaches are needed to better understand and address the stress experienced in this type of environment.

THE ACTIVITY THEORY AND AN ADDITIONAL NICHETRAINING

Kruskiv, Lam, Tse, Kang, and Adaptability Training


REFERENCES

Kruskiv, Lam, Tse, Kang, and Adaptability Training