



## **Revisionary Postmodernism: Application to Sustainable Development in a Complex Adaptive System for solution**

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### **Abstract**

A revisionary postmodern approach focusing a system which is complex and can permit different voices as well as dissenting for contributing the future without privileging them. We are continuing to trash the planet and future sustainability could be under threat as human being. Sustainable development connects environmental, economic and social problems. Separation of man's activity from typical to postmodernity may bring a positive change in social, economic and environmental realms. Planet Earth as a complex system, rational planning and analysis in a linear form are no longer seen as suitable. Postmodernism offers an exceptional path of observing the world along with the problem with an alternative approach. Modernism is criticized today as it is no more suitable to adopt it as a base for a change that has meaning. Revisionary postmodernism represents an accelerative route. How the use of postmodernism approach can make contribution for securing a more sustainable future is focused by it.

**Keywords:** Sustainable development, complex systems, revisionary post modernism, worldview.

### **Introduction**

Socio-cultural well-being, environmental wellbeing and economic well-being is not independently achievable of each other (Capra 1997, Porritt 2005). Serious threats are created by climate change for the development of economy (Stern 2006), and continuing to expanding the economy may be impossible as economic growth bumps against the physical limitation (Mckibben 2007). Commonly people who are poor, and disadvantaged in

wealth distribution, and suffering disproportionately due to the environmental crisis (Hawken 1993). As a way forward, sustainable development is advised (Porritt 2005). Sustainable development suggests a redefinition on our living in the world, indicates process instead of results. It is needed a change in behavior of the overall society (individuals, business and government, etc.). Simply, linear analysis and rationalism are no more treated sufficient for managing the upcoming challenges as these ignore the situational complexities, believing the solutions which are simplistic (Voss et al. 2006, Smyth 2006). Postmodernism rejects rationalism and modernity based meta-narrative (Hassard 1993). Alternative voices are shut down by rationalism where possibilities are revealed by postmodernism and offers a dissimilar theorizing route, organizing as well as structuring which may form new understandings and acknowledging the significance of different localized narratives, provide emancipatory potential in terms of reality co-formation (Cilliers 1998, Hearn and Parkin 1993).

As postmodernism provides competing representational dialogues plurality that undermine the base for meaningful change, it is criticized (Burrell 1993) but this problem is solved by revisionary post modernism (Sterling 2003). Revisionary post modernism is unlike deconstructive postmodernism as a third order, ecological worldview that identifies main embeddedness in our wider natural systems, it also accepts the 'whole' concept as agents independent patterns with the interaction of environment and each other as well. The term 'whole' holds a co-constructed temporary accommodation but not an objective reality. From this point of view, postmodernism has similarity with the systems theory which is complex, and where the discourses which are locally set, interacting multiplicity, are defined as the system (Cilliers 1998). The system can be co-created by all parties of the system. Agents may be human or non-human and the nature of reality is decided by them. The connection between human and natural environment can be redefined through it and it can also be identified as active co-creation, exposed to revise in a continuous manner. Non-profit and voluntary organisations can mobilize large number of people for fighting against change of climate to build and safeguard for future (Cabinet Office 2007). Revisionary post modernism is a complex system when narrated in case of sustainable development. In conclusion, it is drawn that in a complex system, the revisionary postmodernism can offer a solution to this planet earth.

## **Revisionary Postmodernism**

Postmodernism can show a philosophical break down with positivism towards the reality perception with a basic ontological and epistemological attitude. Events with a rationalist logic is not endeavored to impose by post postmodernism and refutes generalisable meta-narrative (Johnson and Duberley 2000). Actually, modernism depends on expertise notions, objectivity, truth and tries to future prediction on the basis of linear analysis, relativity, perspective plurality is detected by postmodernism and also truths multiplicity. For understanding reality differently, deconstruct the framework and challenges the meta-narratives validity or chosen for the ideas that are granted and rely on other exclusion of narrative for their validity. Society has constructed knowledge, reality is indeterminate as well as changing is the underlying principle behind postmodernism, in this way rendering prediction impossible or difficult. Like conventional postmodernism, the revisionary post modernism detects the lives transience in an environment which has continuity in change. Human condition has a crucial reality of an

uncertain future and predicting the whole as an opposition for civilizational development portions, where abilities of us are far beyond (Smil 1993).

Revisionary postmodernism, accepts the whole, unlike deconstructive post modernism, instead of a relativity collection and disparate narratives, is often viewed as a weakness of post modernism, seems as strength, as create tension is created by dissonances and ambiguities which can release new ideas and associations (Berg 1989). For centuries, the dissociative alienation which is a feature of western culture, and accepts the basic human beings embeddedness within the natural environment of them is counteracted by the revisionary post modernism (Sterling 2003). It shows route to understand the interaction of human activity with natural systems and the co-evolutionary ontology propose that our each activity is related with our world. Language is no longer represents reality but creating reality. As an independently prevailing reference, the reality is removed as well as the contribution of multiple perspectives to the whole is identified.

In case of history, goals of the system and the needs for change, the differing discourses relevance is required to beset by cooperation and completion. The evaluation of reality becomes a matter of acceptance or choice and the difference between true and false, right and wrong is blurred. Credibility is more significant than propositions and truth are judged in accordance with the support they gain or their usefulness (Cilliers 1998). Constant change and instability make prediction impossible or difficult in a complex system, acknowledging it as a continuous characteristic of lives in place of trying to control change (Stacey 2007). Complexity has major implications for managing the change McMillan (2004). In a system interactions results in development and to operate effectively for a system, a multiplicity of interactions is required (Stacey 2007). To research sustainable development, in a revisionary postmodern approach may study a wide range of variation in discourses differing to discover the changes occurred as the outcome of interactions.

### **Complex Adaptive System on Planet Earth**

For ensuring sustainable development, protecting the natural systems on Earth is subject to understand. Societies has an inter connected highly complex system in which happening of one part of planet earth create effect on other parts (Waddock 2007). Motivation about a holistic view of our relationship with planet earth as a disparity between the systematic world as well as the fragmented manner of thinking is present (Sterling 2003, Blewitt 2010). The direct proportion to our inability to view the world's unhealthiness today for viewing it as a whole (Senge 1990). In relation to other objects, objects can be defined (Latour 2004) and Social order has the connections networks among humans, objects and technology (Latour 2004, Couldry 2004). Setting the division with a community and between society and nature, enrolling humans and non-humans, on the basis of matter and mind separation, controlling and dominating, challenges the dominant rational view of western (Blewitt 2010). The significance of living in harmony and interdependence with nature is identified by other cultures (Peate 2005). There is a co-evolutionary relationship to affect each other, where a human interpretation of nature and culture is channeled by the natural world as much as socio historic pressure channels the interpretation of nature and culture (Argyros 1991).

The idea of interdependency according to Gaia theory, the earth is complex, dynamic way of interactions and also self-regulating, where humans are a part (Lovelock 2000). A system is not understandable by analyzing the parts of it (Hatch 1997). Business models work on the ground of a linear framework, hence problems are found but if we consider natural environment then it will change our way of interaction (Borland 2009). Individual remains in a location of social contexts from which decisions are made (Blakie 2000), if the consideration of broad view may occur then behavior of people towards the environment will be influenced. On the basis of the growth of shared understanding of the problem and system dynamics reframing capability can reach the long term sustainability and development leading by a short term individual interest within a complex system (Morgan 2006).

In a complex system, information from the environment does not decide the nature of change but causing system changes. Small changes can bring effects in a large extent (McMillan 2004) but the occurred change is not fully random. Revisionary post modernism has resemblance with complexity. Multiplicities of locally determined discourses are detected by complexity that challenges the predictability notion. Directions or trends can be discerned by a process indicated as rise (Stacey 2007). Evolution and development are the outcome of expressed and acted deviations but not of consensus (Berg 1989). The self organising systems adaptability of in existing environment may robust and surprisingly flexible (Prigogine 1997).

### **Focus of Sustainable Development for a solution**

As a social modernism concept, on a global level sustainable development was first outlined in 1987, highlighting the triple bottom line of economic prosperity, social equity and environmental quality (Porritt 2005, Brundtland 1987). Many definitions where sustainable development contains the phrases or words like moral development, value change and social reorganization and vision (Gladwin et al 1995), and also a lot of interpretations (Lozano 2008). Sustainable development is considered as a concept which is contestable, where the exactly right meaning may never be settled, even after that sustainable development is valued (Jacobs 1991). In the link between human and nature, how human wish to live and wish to preserve the nature quality is regarded as the main aspect of sustainable development to show an opportunity to generate new ideas (Voss et al. 2006, Borland 2009). Nature is a resource which is exploited by human being, leads to unsustainable development according to the anthropocentric world view (Giradot et al 2001, Borland 2009). Humans cannot stay outside of nature and they are just one species among many, hence, a cultural shift of looking the world in a new way should be acknowledged (Sterling 2003).

We depend on the natural environment as portion of a system (Gladwin et al 1995, Voss et al 2006), so we have to shift from linear, traditional and reductionist approaches. Highlighting the changing process instead of the end goal offers opportunities to groups to set it as equitable for the disadvantaged groups and also for reshaping the urban environment (Kiel and Desfor 2003).

To understand the conditions of future existence of the society, sustainable development is viewed as a guide, against management practices formula than search for expected end state (Blewitt 2010). As a ground of collective action, sustainable development is meaningful as can

offer difference into mutual agreement and a common dialogue. Post modernism often contains incapability to offer value judgments, but in case of revisionary postmodernism, society is seen as a growing property of social systems and the effectiveness of their entry into the network is decided by the relevance of activities (Berg 1989).

## **Revisionary Post Modernism: Application to Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is considered as a complex problem, so a different rational and traditional approach of problem solving approach is required. Environments featured by uncertainty and turbulence are the cause of complex problems. They are open-ended, , unstable, vague, multidimensional and value-laden (Klein 2004) and resist being limited by the approaches of problem solving which is classical. Modern society has characteristics that give resemblance with a complex system Luhman (1985). For example, dynamic interaction with many elements both human (people) and non-human (nature), existence of non-linear interactions, various capacities hold various connections. In the postmodern world, to gain sustainability for a postmodern society, the service industrial paradigm offers the option which is viable alone (Stahel, 2003). Our role should be guided in shaping a sustainable world, so all agents in the system should be ask questions regarding the type of world we wish to inhabit. A system that destroys its environment can also destroy itself, hence, a role is needed to play to sustain the environment.

Actions of the independent or multiple actors from a complexity point of view, at local level can make difference in the system. Emergence of innovation and creativity can be seen from interactions but not from individual agents' intention (McMillan 2004). Dialogues are required to discover the relationship of each other, also with natural environment and to discover narratives; application of postmodern research is needed (Johnson and Duberley 2000). The form and content of dominant models of knowledge for generating new knowledge forms and to raise voice who for those are not showed within the dominant discourses (McAuley et al 2007). The interplay of actions and intention of many people has created the society for generating a development pattern in a particular direction (Elias 2000). It evolves and suggests that through interaction, human beings can form and are formed through the environment, so, in this way, the own evolutionary history of them, they are the actors, and a large scale change can be brought by those who are acting as local agents within a complex system can bring because of having their own interest.

## **Conclusion**

This paper has indicated revisionary postmodernism showing the application to sustainable development in a Complex Adaptive System for solution. A new way of sustainable development is represented by the revisionary postmodernism approach. We need a change for our survival and to survive through value change and vision the adaption of revisionary postmodernism is required as sustainable development is a social, economic and political concept which is complex. Revisionary postmodernism shows the path of responsibility and moral choice. It is seen as indispensable to place a new step to universal ethics and it is needed to address the meaning and role of a responsibility principle that is broadly comprehended, holistic to deliver values overcoming the shortcomings of individualistic, traditional, and anthropocentrism

which is practically-materialistic, for implementation of sustainable development, building the possibilities simultaneously.

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