

PHILOSOPHICAL WORLDVIEWS ON THE NATURE OF THINKING AND ACTING

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Abstract

*“There is nothing unchangeable in the world,
Only variability is unchangeable.”*

Albert Einstein

According to ancient Greek philosophers, philosophy is the love of wisdom that hoists human consciousness, where, through reason, meanings of unknowns are distinguished and attested. The science of philosophy realizes the general recognition of the world's existence. As an early science in critical thinking, it developed the progressive performance of intellectual knowledge in man, by summarizing a set of unified principles about recognition, where through the reason dictates the concepts on society and nature as a change and overall knowledge of the world and nature laws. Philosophers consider the opinion as an intellectual property that helps us find answers and solutions to the important questions and problems such as: "If you are not a man who thinks, then what kind of man are you?", or "Are we what we think?".

Thinking is characterized not only by the study of visible objects as symbols, but also by the treatment of hypotheses for the acquisition of more accurate knowledge of various scientific disciplines. It was Plato, who unveiled the thought as a special feature of the thinkers who brought the necessary changes in society. While Descartes declared that he doubted everything, but only for one thing, - he said, - I do not doubt: *That I think!* The thought that arises and emanates from the self is the origin of the goals and the vision about the surrounding universe. It is a reference to the mind, which is based on experience, on the meaning of things and on the manner how we perceive phenomena and occurrences of society and nature. Thus, human activity is directly associated with his thoughts embedded in the psyche and experienced until the transformation of them into mentalities and habits, under which it operates. The path described up to present days, but also the one expected to be described tomorrow is the product of the ideas of human society.

Keywords: Philosophy, Critical thinking, knowledge, reason, wisdom, creativity

Introduction

Philosophy is thought to be the biggest tree of knowledge, which includes all branches of human knowledge, or as science of all sciences. Aristotle used to see philosophy (the love for knowledge-wisdom) as the science of the first causes and principles. The ideal of knowing meant a complete mastery of behavior due to the possession of a rational thought. Since philosophy studied everything, it should give to the individual "the magic power" to master the dark passions that simmered within the human being, the diverse desires, and provide solutions to many problems that the individual faced during his life. We can very easily discern such a phenomenon if we "consider" with attention "the picture" of the ancient human society, in which not incidentally, we note that philosophers were also the wisest people. They were multilateralscholars: mathematicians, physicians,biologists, astronomers, astrologers, speakers, etc., who put the emphasis on thinking about science's expansion and advancement.

Philosophy is the social science that aims to reflect knowledge about the world that surrounds us. Often we seek to learn more about phenomena such as birth, death, war and peace, etc., which should be understood as an effort to recognition of our own existence. Indeed these questions were answered by prominent thinkers and philosophers of antiquity, who were called Miletianbecause they belonged to the population that lived in the coastal city of Miletus. Their philosophical thoughts arose and augmented by the development and achievements in the fields of history, geography, literature, discoveries in the fields of mathematics, geometry, as well as those of other sciences.Focusing on evolutionof philosophical concepts of some of the philosophers of antiquity, at the same time we will throw light on their critical thinking evolution, now in the role of an inalienable instrument (or driving lever) with a developmental character that brought the philosophical world in today's developments. Critical thinking played the role, in analogy with Archimedes thesis, who said that if you enable a foothold (to his theory) to support the lever, he would budge the world!

Critical Thinking - Archimedes lever in the field of philosophy

Philosophy deals with the examination of the laws of nature and intellectual knowledge extraction from systematic experience, which is nothing but a lesson that is acquired through pure reason and intellectual system of thinking. Philosophy, through reason and the empirical experience gained in its deliberations, tends to analyze approaches to truth by verifying them through pure reason, in a way for the society to be oriented towards

constant changes. One verity we can explore and verify in this concrete case by suspecting and by introducing comparative studies between evil and good. Parmenides was the first who highlighted the phenomenon of impossibility of thinking about nothingness, because, as he used to say, every thought is always associated with something. The thought object is the basis of thought itself and according to Parmenides is not possible to separate the act of thinking from the thought object.

The philosophers of antiquity focused their research interest in human studying. In these studies began to display their suspicion about the relative truths that were known by then, an evident feature of critical thinking. The placement of thought in the tarmac of doubt prompted and encouraged even more critical thinking. The thematic and the variety of the issues the philosophers of antiquity discussed or put forward encompassed also the nature of the problematic content. Socrates reasoning supports the phenomenon that the human is a reasonable being and interacts according to the principles that he sets in his life. He focused on the resolution of the thought: “How should we live according to the principles of good?” The philosophical thought in ancient period has been very present by giving strong arguments for the existence of human life. Hence, the first foundations for living were casted on the basis of universal ideas about the elements of nature, natural rules and dignity of human beings. The elements of nature in which the human is included, are physical elements, used by the individual to abstract in an attempt to live.

The process of critical thinking is estimated as the most progressive and closely related to the look towards the innovative with newer information and mindset in relation to time. Critical thinking unlike the one problematic and creative embodies essentially evaluative features, includes even the results of the critical analysis of the facts and is traversed by a logical good sense. It is closely related and is dependent on complex real-world problems solving, from the generation of multiple solutions to a problem, from the compilation and presentation of the conclusions, synthesis and integration of new information. Critical thinking is distinguished from fact and opinion or from evaluation of the achieved results with the trend towards a more perspective and newer stage or target. At the core of critical thinking is a process that calls for the use of reflective thought, rational and reasonable to collect, interpret and assess the information for the formulation of an opinion with progressive pretensions. This process involves the discovery of more than one solution to a problem and to select the most competitive alternative which not only is a product of the worldview, cultural and scientific development of the stage reached in the past, but also prepares the imperative need to a fresh start. So, everything that should be accepted is

realized through progressive criteria and facts as well as through a logical reason.

Since creativity is not an individual privilege, but part of the intellectual skills of human being universe itself, as such remains even critical thinking. What distinguishes critical thinking from other categories of thinking is diverse and imaginative treatment of the problems and phenomena that are handled, as well as intuition or feeling that is a very important source of creative knowledge, qualities that distinguish critical thinking from creative one. Always when we emphasize the word problem, we talk for different phenomena and the term also implies the resolution of a conflict, task, etc., therefore, of a matter still unresolved. Critical thinking involves in itself a higher pace than other modes of thinking during the dialectical process of passing from the known to the unknown. Thus, during the critical thinking, we not only affirm and support the knowledge gained from theory and practice, but create premises to realize a new leap towards what we still are not familiar with and know.

Critical thinking includes

- The experience or the gained inheritance: The more experience is obtained and the more educated the individual is, the more opportunities there are to solve and to easily cope with life's problems.

- Skills we possess: Attainment of a conclusion is one of the forms of thinking, which means that from the information and the knowledge we possess, we extract and derive new knowledge. When scientific criteria are abandoned, there are not excluded even the cases of derivation of erroneous conclusions.

- Goals and motivation toward a new target: the direction and trend of quantitative and qualitative developments necessarily lead to a new orientation and position which transform into a powerful impetus to move and look ahead. Of course, this does not mean that it is a denial of the past, whether good or bad, but for its utilization with selective and creative criteria. Critical thinking needs to use a number of tools such as:

- Level of knowledge gained from the past,
- Expression skills through which we can convey to people and society the new progressive views and mentalities.

- The reacting and expressing method, as each individual seeks to disclose his personal stance on the problems, whether they are positive or negative.

In most cases the man is the result of his thoughts. It is quite clear that today's point of arrival is the consequence of our ideas, as well as the point of arrival tomorrow will depend on their level and quality. Hence, we analyze what the thought is by using as testing tool the opinion itself. As

everywhere, even in this area, we keep in mind the relativity that accompanies us related to what we treated above.

Thinking comes naturally after a long work of an ample information collection related to the subject they want to talk about. So, to think and write in specific areas and disciplines, a special and qualified job is required. In a way, this kind of thinking should be taught and practiced with willingness and tenacity. Thinking is the cradle and the bed of creating, properties these, that exist in every human being with a normal health and mentally capable, conditioned by the level of socio-cultural environment in which they live. Thinking, in general, is the selective ability for a particular, specific issue from the cultural, social, economic and esthetic perspective. Given that creative thinking is a companion of critical thinking, even continuously feeding from it, critical thinking is an intellectual process that emanates from observation, experience, from reflection, reasoning, and active attitude towards various phenomena of life, theories and social practices in which the individual is and participates. The ascending stairs towards deepening of the knowledge require a continuous dialectical development and not horizontal or intermittent. On the other hand, facing the reality of life and problem solving requires the acquisition of modern knowledge.

Critical thinking is the highest quality of thinking. He represents the "reading between the lines", the sophisticated opinion (refined) which the individual tries to protect relying on arguments and facts; evidence and sound logic. The vision for critical scholars has always been at risk from the perspective that considers them as skilled people in the development of criticism. Such an approach is biased and confuses them with people that criticize, who do not recognize the realistic and dialectical approach towards the life processes, but only criticize phenomena that hinder the development and the progress of the society. Critical sound thinking represents an objective analysis and evaluation, which promotes, supports and assesses the achievements, but also "reveals" before public opinion, the causes of absenteeism, offering innovative solutions that would mark a progress of the society.

The basis of critical thinking is the analysis of a publicly presented thematic and the oxygen that feeds the freedom of thought, alternatives and different opinion, far from the slogans, conformism and the barriers that official indwelling creates. Although critical thinking was born and cradled in the "cradle" of the field of philosophy, it knows no borders, because it involves the most sensitive areas of the human society's life, the art, science, manufacturing, business, etc. Especially, evidently, it is displayed during political struggles in the parliamentary field and the construction of a

democratic state and pluralistic society. Thinking critically, through judgment disclosure, can be:

- Affirmative and,
- Dissident.

Kant underlines: "To think means to focus on a particular fact or phenomenon, to keep a side, to affirm something or to deny it." Affirmative or dissident critical thinking should be based on convincing arguments, reviews and evaluations, illustrations with examples, statistics representation over a certain reality. Affirmative and dialectical critical thinking, paves the way for the human society's development. Implementation of its methodology has led the world and the human society forward. Dissident and reactionary critical thinking represents the remnant in the same place without moving forward and the thought without ideas or, often, that prevents and inhibits the ideas that pave the way for new developments. The achievements of human society are the product of the collision and the affirmation of the progressive critical thinking in all areas of life. Let us remember the countless sacrifices in the field of scientific discoveries of Copernicus, Giordano Bruno and Galileo in defiance of the tenets of time.

The denial of the critical thinking is a feature of dictatorial and backward regimes, which support the ideological dogmas and dictatorships, the lack of freedom of speech, of expression and free conscience. Denial of critical thinking is a heresy in countries with dictatorial political systems. Specifically, this phenomenon appeared during the proletarian revolution in the Republic of China, when the ideological basis of the theory of the three worlds became Maoism, so, the thoughts of Mao Zedong, or in our country, the thoughts of Enver Hoxha. It is worth mentioning that for the development of all the areas of life in our country, the regime and the ruling party of our country's life offered to the people the Enver Hoxha's works, for the army, art and culture, for petroleum, agriculture, politics and philosophy. In all these works overruled dogmas and political slogans, where came to the fore the idea that history, culture and life of the Albanian people knew as founding date, 8 November 1941, the foundation of the Albanian Communist Party day. Thus, although the country's economy was backward, every criticism, even benevolent, was treated as a hostile act against the interests of the people and the state itself, therefore it was punished with years of jail. For this, it will remain alive in the memory of contemporaries, Article 55 of the Albanian legislation that condemned any so-called hostile propaganda and that violated the party-state policy.

In the People's Republic of China, for example, a group of doctors claimed that the key to the success of their medical operations stood at reading, at the control and at the acquisition of Chairman Mao Zedong ideas. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the works of the most prominent

Western writers were burned (Goethe, Man, Zweig, Camus, Sartre, etc.) as decadent works that were poisoning the conscience of Chinese society. With all the rights, can be raised the question: "Can critical thinking be taught in a lesson hour?" As stated, the drop of rain pierces the stone. Gradually, students can learn enough about critical thinking, both in theory and in specific situations in the social life as active members of society. But there is nothing fictional that makes them think critically. Critical thinking takes place when students are informed and contrast their concepts and knowledge with philosophical and political developments, with the most advanced economic and political systems of human society, with the technological and scientific developments of the time, so, when they are taught and participate in free debates on various issues and when assessing the essence of a free life and civil society.

However, without freedom, nothing can be achieved. Freedom is the source to which we are committed all lifelong, once our freedom is imposed, we can only assume the human ambitions. Once you have gained freedom and tolerance within the spiritual ethics, our knowledge will affect with the intelligent system in the precise understanding of the world. The more we tend after the acquaintance, the more critical reason to judge the faith and the special and general ideas towards us we profit. The simple and complex ideas, which are benefited from the genuine recognition, will remain as luminous pearls of our intellectual system. The features and the phenomena of our era, of the fields of arts and sciences have a direct connection with the development of a sound critical thinking.

Conclusion

It can be said that the basis of critical thinking is the development of a logical analysis. What are important are the education of an objective attitude and the exclusion of voluntary and subjective attitudes. Voluntary and subjective thinking carries unscientific distortions, arrogant and mediocre attitudes as well as judgments. Critical thinking is an assessment, judgment, interpretation, analysis process, which reveals the accuracy of the information, the essence of the problems, of the ideas that come from the process of creative thinking. Critical thinking requires a realistic, meticulous and objective assessment of theoretical and practical phenomena in life. Critical thinking tests the analysis, the decisions taken, the options, highlights significant assumptions, implements certain standards of logical reasoning, but also creates track to achieve larger goals, as they say, reveals and unveils new trails. Through critical thinking are designed objectives in concrete areas, but also abstract ones, like those of art and philosophy, what must and what must not be done. It helps us to distinguish the good from evil, the right from wrong and the real from the unreal. Critical thinking

progressively carries in itself even creativity and undoubtedly, represents in essence a higher worldview level in report with the previous one, because, "every time has its peak and culmination".

So, today's era, apart from the transition into the industrial society, creates conditions even for the testing of philosophical concepts as a precedent of nowadays human society's development. Critical thinking can help us to assimilate knowledge, improve our theories and to reinforce arguments. Critical thinking can be used to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of business processes and to improve our social institutions. Critical thinking can be seen as the foundation of science and of a free democratic society, who need the experimentation and the confirmation of theories. The proper functioning of a democratic and liberal society needs citizens capable to think critically on social issues and to give their right judgment on the right governance and on trends and prejudice overcoming.

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