

Order of Things – Outline

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protevi@lsu.edu / <http://www.protevi.com/john/Foucault/OT.pdf>

I. English Edition Foreword

II. Preface

III. *Las Meninas*

IV. Renaissance episteme

- A. Order: resemblance (convenience; emulation; analogy; sympathy)
- B. Signs: signatures
 - 1. collapse of semiology and hermeneutics onto each other
 - 2. preliminary conclusions about Renaissance knowledge
 - a. "plethoric yet poverty-stricken"
 - b. science, magic, and authority on same epistemic level
- C. Language
 - 1. part of the world
 - 2. primacy of writing
 - a. failure to distinguish "what is seen and what is read"
 - b. importance of commentary
- D. Knowledge: essentially incomplete commentary on similarities

V. Classical episteme

- A. Order: identity and difference
 - 1. *mathesis*: ordering of simple natures
 - 2. *taxinomia*: ordering of complex natures
- B. Signs: representations
 - 1. exist in and for the mind
 - 2. separate rather than unite things
 - 3. privilege of conventional over natural signs
 - 4. transparent and duplicated representation
 - 5. impossibility for Classical thought to represent representation
- C. Language:
 - 1. transparent function of representing;
 - 2. linearizes simultaneity of thought
- D. Knowledge: setting up of table of identities and differences

VI. Specific Classical Sciences

- A. general grammar: study of verbal order: taxonomy of a way of representing
 - 1. four key features
 - a. attribution: connection of representations; verb "to be"
 - b. articulation: expressing of content
 - c. designation: denotation
 - d. derivation: etymology; rhetoric; spatiality
 - 2. quadrilateral of language: the name at the center
- B. Natural history: fresh examination and transcription of living things
 - 1. critique of history of ideas
 - 2. structure: object of constrained sight; pattern of surfaces and lines
 - 3. character: essential nature of things
 - a. system: specification of small number of traits
 - b. method: exhaustive treatment of one keynote species

4. continuity of nature: gaps in ideal order due only to accident
 5. lack of concept of evolution
 6. lack of concept of life
- C. Analysis of wealth: relation of money as mere sign to represented value
1. money as pledge: controversy over the guarantee
 2. Physiocrats vs. "utilitarians": controversy over origin of value

VII. Common structure of Classical sciences

- A. structure of general grammar is shared by others
- B. representation is the ground

Order of Things 2

I. The modern episteme

- A. Order: historical organic structures related by analogy of function
- B. Signs: failure of representation
- C. Language: impure medium; literature as showing being of language
- D. Knowledge: fragmentation into 3 realms: formal; empirical; philosophical

II. Transitional figures

- A. Adam Smith: labor as measure of value
- B. Lamarck: organic structure as taxonomic character
- C. William Jones: inflection as representational
- D. Kant: critique of representation

III. New Empirical Sciences: human conditions

- A. Economics: Ricardo/Marx: labor as source of value
- B. Biology: Cuvier/Darwin: organic structure: key to life as functional system
- C. Philology: Bopp: words as elements of grammatical system

IV. Modern Philosophy: conditioned man as nevertheless a subject of knowledge

- A. Analytic of finitude: limits of knowledge become ground of knowledge
- B. Man and his doubles
 1. empirico-transcendental doublet: type of knowledge
 2. cogito and unthought: scope of knowledge
 3. retreat and return of the origin: history of knowledge
- C. Death of man: exit from closure of modern philosophical anthropology

V. The Human Sciences: man unconsciously representing his own being-conditioned

- A. psychology: function and norm (biological model)
- B. sociology: conflict and rule (economic model)
- C. literary studies: meaning and system (philological model)
- D. epistemic status of the human sciences:
 1. mode of knowledge, but not sciences
 2. proliferation of models and controversies

VI. History and the Countersciences: beyond man: the collapse of the modern episteme?

- A. history: limiting scope of the human sciences
- B. psychoanalysis: general conditions of possibility of unconscious representations
- C. ethnology: specific cultural conditions of possibility of uncns. representations
- D. "linguistics" [cf schizoanalysis!]: formal linking of psychoanalysis and ethnology