

Pragmatism and Challenges of Education

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Abstract: Since its beginning, the philosophical trend of pragmatism, literally "Philosophy of Action", was fostered by optimism that makes "the impossible" to "possible". Such was American pragmatism with highly dynamic features that were discussed by Charles Sanders Peirce, William James and John Dewey. The concept of the truth when it serves the individual as well as the society would serve as the starting point of the view of John Dewey, to overcome the subjective dualism, a feature of the traditional philosophy. It was exactly their views that influenced the shaping of the so-called "Philosophy of Action". However, the study will focus on the views of these thinkers on pragmatism and its usefulness to society.

Keywords: Pragmatism, education, society, individuals and recognition..

1. Introduction

Given the fact that man is an existential being who makes attempts to advance day by day to achieve its practical goals in the limits of infinity in time and space, apart from recognition performance, he also makes good use of the perspective knowledge (what to do) in solving problems. For achieving this goal, he chooses the most appropriate means towards pragmatic action for the purposes of human beings are not only recognition purposes disconnected from its concrete objectives. This trend preceded the philosophical views of William James on pragmatic methods, pragmatic theory of truth, followed by John Dewey's views on his philosophy as an education theory, the issues of dualism emergence, as well as other subsequent views of American pragmatism that influenced the development of human society.

Pragmatists approach to a fundamental problem, the aim of human in life, was closely linked with the understanding of the purpose of human activity as part of his thinking activity. Thus, as a method pragmatism openly objects rationality, as a dogmatic attitude, especially his claim that he offers the ultimate solution to the world in the field of concepts. In fact pragmatism has no doctrine; it raises no philosophical system, but a method that is closer to the issues of life.

According to pragmatism, no results in science, theology, philosophy should be taken as a final result because ultimately all theoretical formulations are nothing but approximations about a certain reality in constant change. For pragmatic concepts, the practical value dominates over all others. What thinkers of pragmatism had in common was their joint concept that between thought and action must exist a close relationship. Battlefield of their works were the relations between theory and practice judging that in

everyday life commitments, the way of thinking had less value than beneficial practical activity.

2. The causes of the birth of pragmatism

“Although since the time of Plato until today, the themes of philosophy has exchanged places succeeding each other, the tendency of a constructive critic on the knowledge and the need to turn the theories on philosophy into practical productive realizations, led to a vital trend called pragmatism. It became the America's own national philosophy because it brought the intensity of values and innovation.” [1].

One of the founders of pragmatism, Charles Sanders Peirce, the American philosopher, who also studied chemistry, physics, mathematics and astronomy and dedicated later only to philosophy and logic, held his view in his work published in 1882, entitled "How to clarify our ideas?". For Peirce, the issues raised by Kant, whether God exists or not, whether there is or not the immortal soul of man, in the true sense, are not a problem, because if it is a real problem, it should be solvable at least in principle. And, by essence as both of the above problems cannot be solved, logically they are no problems. Thesis, ideas and thoughts are meaningful if they can be proved with facts or proved to be right or wrong. Anything else is meaningless.

Pragmatism is the philosophy of understanding in which the concept is defined by the realization of practical effects. Therefore, when two concepts with different names provide the same practical effect, form a concept; while when two concepts have the same name but give different effects, we are dealing with two different concepts. A concept also brings a belief (obedience) in it. Obedience is a mental outlook that guides the process of acting. According to Peirce, true ideas are the most useful "leaders".

Another representative of pragmatism, William James, was of the opinion that the only indication of the accuracy of that

premise, is being useful. According to him, the theories are tools that we propose in order to solve the problems we are facing. And to understand if these theories are correct or not, we should see if they work or not practically. That is why Peirce used the word "pragmatic" as a synonym of the word "experience".

According to James the concept of the word "practically useful" also means "beneficial psychologically." The right theory is the one which brings a practical advantage over our behavior. The notion of accuracy is identified with utilitarianism (being useful), and in practice accurate is something which is useful. Even John Dewey termed "the accuracy" as a tool for solving problems. He rejected the classical definition on recognition as a connection between the cognitive subject and the object to be known. For Dewey recognition is a process which has three times that, more or less, reminds you of Hegelian dialectic: "the reality is an earlier accumulated experience which expands and then is questioned, then a new reality derives from this which will make new plans arise and hypothesis raised. "Knowledge is not the affirmation of a reality that exists in" itself" but his creation. "[2].

Dewey treats duality created between empirical knowledge and rational knowledge, yet between the subjective inner elements and objective ones which continuously clash with each other. From the coexistence of these realities he perceives the idea of a third reality creation. The real reality in itself is human action. The whole society consists of practical actions and experiences acquired during these actions.

William James, believed that the essence of pragmatism is closely related to the guarantee of results, something close to the word Albanian saying "do not see his cloak, but look at the work he does." The theory which does not lead to success must be abandoned as something without value." [3]. the combination of pragmatism with utilitarianism, leads to the concept that ideas that embody these values are true. James is based on the thesis that an idea, accurately copies and reflects reality, therefore it is true. According to him the truth must be the concrete value of the idea. He raises the questions: what motive may have to draw if something is true or not except the fact of giving behavior valuable instruction, practical guidance? What specific changes would lead to having a true idea in the concrete life of every one of us? By linking the truth with life, with human action, James rejected the view that the truth is a blur characteristic of the ideas.

According to him ideas come true by events and the pragmatic attitude lays the claim to make the truth part of your experience. Thus, in philosophy, pragmatism was rated as a trend of thought that considers the truths as processes and thoughts as experiences. This group aimed at the revaluation of the terms such as truth, knowledge and philosophy. William James, made the term "pragmatism popular", "new name for old ideas" in the early years of the twentieth century.

John Dewey analyzed and studied the methods of education, relations with science, conception of democracy, access to everyday life, the meaning that equality of the sexes takes, the importance of values, the role of the arts, the reconstruction of philosophy, etc. According to him a man has a mission to make the world a better place to live in and this can be done by constantly reforming education. His opinion brought new concepts to the old idea of the

experience. For Dewey, experience summarizes and combines all our interactions with the environment, be it physical, biological, social and family. This experience is never passive. It is not the world on one hand and the conscience on the other hand, which record the external phenomena.

On the contrary, every experience and every existence is constructed by interactions, by mutual relations, by relationships between a myriad of factors. In his opinion pragmatism is primarily a thought of the process, at a time when the thought and in the real world, everything is "making progress". Therefore, the idea of the truth changes: Thus, our ideas, our moral criteria, aesthetic or political, are not eternal; they are in permanent evolution. These concepts oppose their enclosure and blocking the ideas. So, pragmatic philosophy, instead of hardening man, nature, science and society in terms of their enclosure, suggests considering the relationships between them in terms of their dialectical; mobile and changing aspects.

John Dewey conceived his theory as a path built by walking. This turns it into an enemy of dogmatism. He was convinced that humanity can prosper and that his improvement depends on his reflections and activities. Dewey's rated himself as progressive. He thought that it must be him to create something new through practice, in order to expand the horizon of human knowledge. Unlike Marx and despite all the possible criticism that makes the society of classes, Dewey saw human development best preserved by a science-oriented practice, rather than by the proletariat. Development, not having a fixed goal, for example that of a society without classes, is unlimited. It is supportive of Bergsonian concept of "creative development" unlimited creation of reality starting from what is already won. It also symbolizes the American ideal of border, always pushing it farther and farther.

If we say that the twentieth century was a century that brought the whole American values like individual freedom, optimism about life, like many other philosophers of the century, Dewey also had polemics with the previous philosophy. The controversy consisted in the fact that the previous philosophy confused the true nature and function of knowledge. The empirists proclaimed the thesis that thinking is related to things defined in the nature every thought is linked to a real and concrete object in nature.

So, pragmatism is a theory that is directed against inherited absolutism, it is a conviction on the need that all principles should be seen more as hypothesis under development rather than strictly metaphysical ideas. As a modern expression of empiricism, pragmatism flourished and had a big influence on the American life in the first half of the twentieth century, tending to handle traditional philosophical results in the light of scientific and social developments. The essence of pragmatism remains finding a real solution to the truth.

3. Pragmatism aggressiveness of our time

For pragmatists just experienced or observed phenomena are real. In this recent American philosophy of the nineteenth century, the focus was on the reality of the experience. "The purpose of theories of Dewey and pragmatism in general was to bring "a clear idea about the problems that lie at the foundations of hardships and the evil that we experience in practical life." [4].

Although pragmatism as a , methodology enriched the philosophy with the realization of concrete goals, in our time he carries the symptoms of an aggressive nature which seek allies for more support in theory as well as in practice , but also in many areas of life, especially in the context of human rights. It is all about the exaggerated performances of the electronic media which play a significant role in the education of our society. "The media has become so aggressive, that is rapidly replacing the role of the family and the school by setting standards that are cooked in the kitchens of these media executives and the formation of ideals and desires of today's youth." [5] The morale that these programs convey is full of messages where fatal corruption reigns.

Now art and the reality, are holding the idea that someone can only earn a living by working hard and honestly, but cannot become very rich. The attitudes of the leaders of the major political parties impose on people stereotypes of immoral people as models of a future leader and a successful career. Although it is known that the level of schools is experiencing a descent, pragmatic politicians continue to treat them as party assets to convey their close interests, in defiance of their apolitical status. This kind of pragmatism does not spare even the Albanians dream to go to Europe.

The leaders of these parties treat it as a magical instrument in their hands to create a fictional image of a party where they belong, thus considering rival parties, as "enemy" which obstruct the European dream of Albanians. But aggressive pragmatism performances are also clearly seen in the tendency to capture the independent political powers which are the foundations of democracy. Therefore, as the pendulum passes in two extremely contrasting targets in the target of practical needs and benefits of the democracy revolution, its next target, aggressive pragmatism, is considered a real threat when it violates the greatest values of democracy.

4. Conclusions

Pragmatism is a methodology that is directed against inherited absolutism, a conviction on the need that all principles should be seen more as hypothesis under development rather than strictly metaphysical axioms. As a modern expression of empiricism, pragmatism flourished and had a great influence on the American life in the first half of the twentieth century, tending to handle traditional philosophical results in the light of scientific and social developments.

In conclusion we can say that the philosophical trend of pragmatism emerged as a critical attitude towards inherited knowledge and views. The value of pragmatism lies in the request for correction of theoretical concepts by pruning vegetative and conservative ideas. Thus, the focus of pragmatism theoretical and practical views was revolutionizing philosophy having as a basic criterion the benefit. In its concept pragmatism favors views and ideas that hastens the reality. In this view, primarily for pragmatism ideas are useful and recognize accomplishments for the society.

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