

The Quest for Self-reflective Knowledge and Practice: Is an Epistemological Blindness Relative to Time and Situation?

Taye Birhanu Taressa

PhD candidate at Addis Ababa University, college of social sciences, department of Philosophy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia & visiting research student at the University of Antwerp, center for European Philosophy, Antwerp, Belgium

Abstract:

This essay is an expository and critical reflection on the fifth chapter of Boaventura De Sousa Santos's Book (2014) entitled "Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide". The title of the fifth chapter is "Toward an Epistemology of Blindness: Why the New Forms of "Ceremonial Adequacy" neither Regulate nor Emancipate" (pages 136-163). I gave this essay the title, The Quest for Self-reflective Knowledge and Practice: Is an Epistemological Blindness Relative to Time and Situation? The paper calls for the need to generate a self-reflective knowledge and practice or a kind of epistemological paradigm that has a room for the consciousness of its own blindness/incompleteness to make the world better. I shall also establish the assertion, that there is relativity of epistemological blindness, in relation to the period and socio-economic and political situations that the society exhibited the blindness passed through. In contrary to Santos's claim, in this essay, I shall present the view that "knowledge as regulation" and "knowledge as emancipation" are interdependent and reinforce one another; rather than being mutually exclusive, even within the marginalized culture itself.

Keywords:

Epistemological, Blindness, Knowledge, Practice, Self-reflective.