

## Abstract

"The project of modernity: the role of reason and the critique of reason" arose in the context of the modernity and postmodernity debate that became popular in the 1980s. At the heart of this debate, the concept of reason is under assaulted violently ever since that the belief in reason is an instrument of control and domination.

This thesis is to study the role of reason and the critique of reason in the project of modernity that have proceeded since the late eighteenth century. Modernity has been under critique and endless trial. Postmodernity<sup>ism</sup> is only the latest wave of this critique.

The first Chapter is a general review of the characteristics of modernity, both as the objective processes of social-historical changes and the modern consciousness, world view ,and the way of thinking.

Second Chapter focuses on time-consciousness of modernity and the legitimacy problem of modernity. Modern time-consciousness is to cut itself from its past, that attempt to grounding and legislating itself against the inherited traditional authority, relating to the idea of progress, emancipation ,and even the revolution from its root. The legitimacy of modernity is built up on self-assertion and self-legislation.

Third Chapter focuses on the concept of reason that the critique is to critique believes and traditions that have been accepted without questions. In other way, main function of critique is to deconstruct old foundation and reconstruct new foundation by using reason and will that connect to the idea of self-legislation.

Fourth Chapter represents the critique of reason that has proceeded since the late eighteenth century. It consists of two parts: the critique of subject-centered reason and instrumental reason. It also represents the project of Habermas that "reconstructs" reason with the theory of communicative reason/action.

This thesis has many limitations: secondary documents and wide concepts make this work imperfect and like jigsaw to understand the project of modernity and the concept of reason.