

In the Name of God

The Problems of Orientalistic Approach to Science

There have been some goals for orientalistic activities that affect their views on their assumptions of Eastern thoughts and science.

I enumerate some of these approaches to point out some problems that result from those approaches as having some untrue pictures from eastern thoughts and science.

- 1- Colonistic approach:
- 2- Phenomenological Approach:
- 3- Dependent other or imperialistic approach
- 4- Sympathetic Approach
- 5- Pluralistic truths as a postmodern view
- 6- Knowing East from the Western worldview.
- 7- Interaction to other

The first works of many Western orientalists directed to colonistic goals in the first activities of these orientalists. Therefore they did not try to know realities of the East, but how they can colonize their territories. In this views, the orientalists evaluated Eastern people as those cannot have any portion of science and valuable thought. They treated Eastern people as they are their slaves who must obey their lord and accept their criteria of truth. Therefore their books about concrete facts of East contain very strange paragraphs and in some cases funny sentences. The dominant of these views destroyed Eastern heritages of science as superstition thoughts or at least abandoned them from scientific circles.

The unsuccessful results of their researches lead them to know more about the East. In more connection to Eastern people they understood that their imaginations were not true because they tried to understand the East based on the Western wants which were their own profits.

Another attempt began on these experiences. The next race of orientalists tried to remove their previous assumption of profitable East. They tried to know East as a phenomena like other natural phenomena without any partial direction in their researches. The best method was phenomenological method. It was more difficult. They tried to collect all experimental human data especially cultural data to sum up them and earn a good imagination from the East. In this attempt they enjoyed more cooperation from Eastern scholars, therefore more realistic picture from Eastern culture and thoughts. The fundamental idea of tourism is nearer to this approach.

However the phenomenological approach had some problems from both sides, i.e. West and East.

From Western side, after the colonial era, this approach was criticized by weak justification for this kind of activities. These orientalist must justify financially their works to absorb enough financial support for their expensive researches. But the colonial purpose lose and colonism was removed from the world.