

Deconstruction And Binary Opposition

Sardar Imran Hussain Bali
TDM Assignment 4.2

January 17, 2014

Abstract

Deconstruction sometimes might be a puzzling phenomenon. The term must certainly never be linked to the notions of "destruction"[1] as it is in fact a concept, which dismantles a text in order to analyze the critical difference of the text from itself[2]. It is not the text, in the application of deconstruction that is destroyed but it is the vivid and dominating significance and belief of the text, which is examined and decrypted. As a literary theory, deconstruction questions the assumptions on certainty and truth and attempts to demonstrate how statements about any text subvert their own meaning. To clarify the concept further, we define it as a theory of reading that aspires to challenge the logic of binary opposition within a script.

Binary oppositions are fundamental conceptual oppositions that structure the Western thought. Generally, It is the presence and absence of dichotomy in any text or environment. Under the specificity of this opposition, one of the element is valued the while the other is disparaged. Examples of pairs such as male-female, good- bad, light-dark clearly define this division.

A deconstructionist analysis is done to critically read these transitions of binary oppositions in a text. The ideas, concepts and values that are being established by the binaries are examined[3]. Reversing the elements in each of the binaries in the text, its original interpretation is challenged. It is this analysis, which makes the concept of deconstruction a valid philosophical and literary inspection tool.

References

- [1] J.A. Cuddon, *From the first paragraph of a four-page definition of the term deconstruction in, A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory.* London, 1991.
- [2] Ian Buchanan, *From the start of a four-page definition of deconstruction in A Dictionary of Critical Theory.* London, 1996.
- [3] <http://kwarc.info/teaching/TDM/Bressler.pdf> .