

University and Power Centers¹

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ABSTRACT

In this Paper, the relationship of university with political, social and economic power centers is studied in a way that university and power centers through interaction can attain synergy. There is dialectical relationship between knowledge and power. In this research, interaction of university with power centers and their cooperation and facilitation will be resolved.

Data were gathered by laboratorial method and analyzed using constructivism approach. Theoretical framework of research discourse analysis of "knowledge – power" of Michel Foucault.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge, Power, Constructivism, Foucault.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the world has been facing with political, economic and social changes are thought to bring wealth relying on new knowledge. It depends on skilled and experienced people, whereas university encounters challenges such as economic problems. University may solve the problems arising from organizations and economic establishments using its potentials and they also may help university in view of economic and politic. Now, whereas some challenges surround the university during recent decades, is it possible to solve the problems and wish for development of university being a logic relationship with power centers?

This research is really important so that we can say university should show its value with its performance to get sufficient resources for providing its qualitative programs in the field of training and education; universities shall compete each other to attract student, provide services and obtain sufficient resources.

With this aim, they should enhance financial resources and their relationships with beneficiaries and diversify them. Therefore, university should deal with reconsideration of managerial patterns, financial resources, internal structure, functional patterns and cooperation. Existing political and economic status of the university, accountability to the environment, promotion and improvement of relationships and cooperation of the university with organizations and establishments for their progress are significance and necessity of this research. Moreover, grounds of university's role for promotion of values such as intellectualization, negotiation, agreement and coexistence are considered. This research has been conducted to achieve several objectives, such as: improvement of financial and administrative system of the university in the field of attraction and optimal use of resources and facilities, decrease of university vulnerability against political, social and economic crises; promotion of scientific and social status of university; promotion of adaptability with environment and exit from problems; synergy .

In this research, we do not try to find cause and effect. Therefore, variables are not discussed. In other words, dialectic relationship between university and power centers is considered. In this case, we can not say about stabilization of variables. The main questions are discussed in this research include: How is the relationship between knowledge and power? (Main question); what profit has knowledge for power? How power can support knowledge? (Sub questions). Here, hypotheses are: there is correlation between knowledge and power, power makes knowledge; both development is possible (main hypothesis), knowledge may expand power; power needs a form of knowledge for acting; power is applied by knowledge. Power forms knowledge, knowledge is formed in framework of power (Sub hypothesis).

Respecting research literature we can say that several books are written about university including: 1- "university, scientific thought, innovation, public domain (collection of papers), written by Mr. Ali Paya, Publications of Research Center of Cultural and Social Studies, in 2005. Firstly, futurology for the university is focused, i.e.; challenges, scientific and development poles, then propagation of science in the public domain and provided cultural researches status, as well as institutes in which thought is arising from it as development motive motor have been studied; 2- "University and Thought Deflation" written by Mary Avaner, translated by Pirouz Izadi, Publications of Research Center of Cultural and Social Studies, 2007. In this book, the author deals with Peer Bordio and Kingsly Ismis

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approaches for the university and observing to regulations and learning language. They also have analyzed sex spaces and studied residue strategies; 3- " University Applications " written by Seyed Mostafa Hadadi and Ali Gol Mohammadi, Research Center of Cultural and Social Studies Publications, 2010. In this book, idea of writers of university including historical roots and its administration, innovation of the officials and living at university is studied, then, university realities including internal imbalance and bureaucracy will be discussed, they also search dynamic environment, fundamental modifications, amending endeavors and difficult selections in university. Regarding investigations about university and its relationship with power centers, no remarkable research has not already done, therefore, the researchers will respond research by executing it. Research methodology is descriptive-analytical and type of study is fundamental research.

Constructivism Approach:

In terms of constructivism approach, this research emphasizes on how reality is formed in the mind reality in mind and at the same time, it considers reality as inter-subjective matter based on social structure. The contemporary realities are constructed by our values. Constructivism thought is formed in a way that the reality may not be studied free of mind and reality is inter-subjective while subjectivism plays a role in its formation. So, Constructivists' reality is subjective reality and it transfers to the society in view of constructivism. Constructively, world is constructed on "us". Based on this approach, human activities merely not only vary physical environments, but also form social relationships of structures and social institutes and more who construct social reality. This political and social reality is developed based on people's speaking and thought method for reality. Reality means its conceptualization. Constructivism examines meaningfulness methods, reality construction and its reconstruction. Of course, not only construction of reality is discussed in reality, but also method of understanding of social reality and its reconstruction is discussed. Moreover, we should find that reality is permanently under construction. Constructivists believe that objectivity is made by the community. Constructivists substitute representation with objectivity which is kind of contract. It is a rotation of epistemology and has high effect on formation of new theories in political sciences as follows: interpretability instead of absolutism in politics, discharge analysis of subjects from values in topics, rejection of lack of role in construction, rejection of isolation of objective matter from subjective matter, ignoring rationalism role in theorism. Social structures, constructively, more are arisen from social meanings instead of arising from rationality. This matter is mentioned that how subjectivity is collectively constructed among people and is not individually but is collectively.

Discourse Analysis pattern of Power-Knowledge, Michel Foucault

From stand point of genealogy of Foucault, all subjects may turn to "power-knowledge". The main issue of Foucault is positive basis of knowledge. Foucault observe historic-oriented phenomena (all phenomena are considered as routed in the history, everything is referred to the history of society), this is a context- action relationship. Foucault stated that power exists only when it is put into action. In this viewpoint, knowledge is development-prone, historical and changeable and indeed, intervene with the world but not a subjective and absolute issue. Through his view, Foucault discusses knowledge and mentioned on the basis of "discipline" (Best and Kelner, 1991:50). In genealogy of Foucault, there is an interrelation of "knowledge and power". On the other hand, without considering relation of power we cannot attain pure science. Power and knowledge constructed the field while it is constituted wholly. Through his statements, Foucault stated that power is a force that makes influence on subjects. Mishel Foucault as mentioned in "Knowledge- Power" believes that power should be investigated as a distributive issue. His belief is in network and act like an organization (Conner, 1997). Network in Foucault's thought involves two features; there is no center and relate rapidly. Power in a network society is a scattered, timely and facelss issue. Power relates in fast. In viewpoint of Foucault, strategy conducts but the main point in this respect is how does conduct it? Relation of power is established with greater section. Foucault deals with notion of identity which makes force. In view of power, knowledge is significant. Power is mentioned as possibilities domain. Power form the reality. Power reflects reality (Foucault, 1980:131-132). Power forms the world for us.

Interaction of University and Power Centers

University are academic centers with educational and research atmosphere as well as faculty members and produce thought and science. University should take a step to provide educational, research, consultation and services affairs. Power centers include politic, social, economic, government (ministries and affiliated organizations), industries and economic agencies. Whether having financial resources and suitable facilities, organizations and economic agencies are faced with some shortages. It seems that responsibility of scientific guidance for these centers rests with outstanding professors and state institutes and related industries shall manage them. It believes that both university and centers will find synergy.

University can interact with power centers such that the centers acquire required knowledge from university in return it produces sciences and places them at their disposal. In this way, both power centers and university should exactly know their demands and capabilities. University aims to optimize income, services, education for applicants and enjoying their participation in a way that they are regarded as assets and bring productivity (Friedridlein, 2001).

University may meet applicants' interest and needs and concord to enhance value of services, being aware of effective capabilities of them (Greenberg, 2001).

Relationship of university and power centers is inevitable going through traditional society and entering into modern and wisdom era. Therefore, science and wisdom besides executive powers and capitalists play a principal role in developed systems. University and power centers have a great portion in development of a country. Centers should try to improve quality and promote its productivity through investment in research and attach to university (Michal, 2000:160; Sutz, 2000:279). Relationship between university and centers is reinforced without uncertainty roles provided that they benefit from desirability and mutual interests. Party to contract treats on the basis of mutual interests. When there is a stable relation that they present mutual desirable solutions to resolve conflicts.

University may create an effective relation with centers. This structure results in to establish services systems as well as "science-based" and have a respondent and demand-targeted university at the same time. Knowledge is applied for sound truthful credence. In fact, this is the learning process and indicates data plus conceptualization and justification of all minds.

Functional and phenomenological features in science make relationship of university and power centers. In general, it also affects on production and services scope while increase demands and this is the main origin in forming endogenous and dynamic communicative structures (Perkmann and Walsh, 2009:211). We can define phrase of "two cultures link" for the relation of university and power centers. In other words, instruction, investigation, specialty services and consequently diversity in economic resources are essential tasks of university and increase in profit and productivity, research and development are assigned to centers. "Knowledge for itself" is university's duty but the centers try to gain profit upon knowledge management. Scientific freedom and open discussion for university and being faithful for centers are the most remarkable parameters. Link of two cultures established by centers and university have considerable role in making knowledge (Severson, 2004:1-6).

University and power centers collaborate with each other when it needs "win- win" plays idea. Establishment of timely teams to promote the plays in interactions of university and centers are most effective (Roy, 1972:950). Besides, if university and centers have had essential supplies for integrated cooperation, they can establish a firm communicative linkage. Evidently, they should make sufficient mechanisms for rebalancing mutual interests and follow effective approaches for resolving satisfactory conflicts provided that their relationship shall be reinforced by collective continuous conceptualization. This is on the basis of dynamic process (Weick and Obstfeld, 2005:409-421).

University and centers may find synergy through interactions, backgrounds and using mutual capabilities, to do so, it is required to use values and norms and its culturalism. Hence, university can provide production, transfer, and exchange and propagate science via amending regulations, updating their organization, planning policies and strategies in the best way, enjoying competent agents also improving substructures and standards. We can gain interaction of university and centers in two levels considering their existing situation; macro and micro. Former refers to the interaction of university and centers and their intervening factors such as, culture and social norms, local backgrounds, public and social networks, organization, regulations and affiliated departments including, patent, rewards, standards, domestic and foreign investments, ownership, environment, informative and communicative substructures and the latter to discussions and interactions, academic planning, training and internship, thesis, guidance and consultation, researches, common courses and programs. Nowadays there is a direct relationship between science and technology development and economic, social and cultural progresses in developed countries, so interaction of university and power centers is obligatory (Ojewale and Oyejisi, 2001:695).

Areas for Cooperation of University and Centers and their Facilitation

University and centers communicate with each other recognizing their demands, primary studies and mutual agreements. Some fields are mentioned as follows; technical and consulting services to the centers provided by university, conducting required researches, training and internship of students in centers and recruitment of graduate students, retraining and holding training workshops for technologists and experts and continuation of their studies, guiding thesis of Ph.D in centers under supervision of faculty members; holding common scientific, technical and applied conferences, applying skilled personnel to instruct in university, enjoying opportunity of studying for faculty members in centers, publishing common magazine, transferring some academic affairs to the centers to perform their plans, and vice versa.

Political centers play a significant role in university including, declining or eliminating tax received by research activities, approving such rules in order to promote and facilitate relationship of social and economic centers and university, allocating more credits to research and development department associated with social and economic centers and university; granting loan with long- lasting installments to researchers, managing and supervising on costs of research credits.

Appropriate facilitation to expand relationship of university and centers are as follows;

- 1- **Cultural facilitation.** In essence, researches are put out social and cultural maturity of societies. Hence, some cultural activities will be executed such as, academic idea to resolve related problems and investigation of the relevant issues in centers and university and their relationship, mutual appearance of university and centers for planning, teamwork activities nor individual search, presenting possible solutions rapidly.

- 2- Need assessment for education and research in centers and university including, estimating centers' demand in research and education, considering proper competition of centers and actual needs of university associated with centers, coordinating needs and potentials of centers and university.
- 3- Research-oriented university involves being education and research-oriented university, specialty personnel of university, providing suitable awards and as a result, promoting research motivations of faculty members.
- 4- Attracting financial resources and research interests are increasing research budget received by civil gross production and cooperating to pay to university, completing technology production framework in university and its transfer to the centers, enacting and enforcing support of production and transaction of knowledge law, establishing non-organizational link between faculty members and centers.

In addition to the above mentioned issues, some other measures has been taken such as, up-to- date scientific- research structures in university, using possible specialties of university by centers, non-enacting inefficient regulations of university, holding training course required in centers and taking consideration of students to workshop and laboratory also training practical courses in appropriate manner, being a strong mediator to transfer university's facilities and capabilities and centers' demands to the university, localization of industries in the country, establishing a firm databank for matters of country and provinces, equipping centers with necessities and cash fund.

Conclusion

Since university is able to relate with power centers, therefore it can function as a part of power network organization. Political and social authorities relying on academic researchers and scientists can pass distribution, partnership and legislation crisis while communicate with ideologist and politics in the world and expand their relationship and consequently, resolve problems resulting from domestic and foreign politic (there is an interaction between power and knowledge, knowledge expand power). University attends to the society's issues and provides solutions when power centers turn it to the practice (power require a kind of knowledge to exercise and power is applied by knowledge). In contrast, power centers may develop university upon financial, political and economic supports. Hence, knowledge is expanded (knowledge appears in power and power forms knowledge). Economic power centers can remove their problems through interaction with university and increase its wealth and vice versa (revolution of knowledge and power is possible simultaneously) unity of scholars (university) and executive powers and capitalists cause to reinforce each other and develop the country (knowledge in framework of power formalities).

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