

Dialogue in Philosophical Hermeneutics

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Abstract

It is well known that the concept of dialogue plays an indispensable role in Gadamer's philosophical hermeneutics. That is, philosophical hermeneutics is usually characterized by a dialogical structure of interpretation wherein the status of the text is elevated to a personified "thou" with whom the interpreter is engaged in a conversation. The first half of this work is an investigation of the notion of dialogue in terms of its connection with classical philosophy and Gadamer's critique of methodology in the natural sciences. Yet, from the deconstructive perspective, a tinge of phonocentrism is unmistakable in Gadamer because of his constant emphasis on "dialogue." On the other hand, Ricoeur, holding an entirely different perspective toward the dialectic between speaking and writing, also voices his doubt about Gadamer's dialogical model. Thus, beginning with Ricoeur and Derrida, the second half will focus on the validity as well as the limits of the dialogical model.

Key Words: Gadamer, dialogue, hermeneutics,
Derrida, Ricoeur