

## The second lecture: Structuralism

### 1- The genesis of structuralism:

As it is well known, the structural approach emerged as an intellectual current at the end of the fifties to go beyond the historical tendency and philosophies that depend on the self as a background such as existentialism or phenomenology, using the results of experimental science. Dr. Abdel-Aziz Hammouda says: «... The hidden roots of structuralism confirm that it did not arise from a vacuum and that it is an extension of Russian formalism as much as it is a revolution against it and a development of new criticism as much as it is a rejection of it, and above this and that it is the logical result of the achievements of the mind and scientific and philosophical thinking on the one hand And for the developments that took place in the field of linguistic studies on the other hand ». As I mentioned earlier, structuralism has revolted against the philosophies that preceded it, especially the philosophies of existential phenomenology and Marxism, which prevailed in France in the pre-structuralist period, taking the bad effects of World War II as well as the dictatorial and non-democratic practices that prevailed in the Western world during this period as an important and decisive pretext to enter The field of literary and scientific battles.

After the Western man lost his confidence in these philosophies, the arena was almost empty for the advent of structural criticism and carrying the banner of defending the defeated man. In the second world war, and there is no evidence of that from the atomic bomb in Japan, only he wants to find an alternative with which to resist his failure to achieve happiness, even for a while, and this explains the short period in which structuralism remained.

In the mid-1960s and beyond, there were some doubts about the methodological sufficiency of structuralism in its various anthropological, psychological, literary, and cognitive fields. Jonathan Keller says: "The dependence of structuralism on the linguistic model in literary studies made it start from a previous view of the creative scientific."

This means that since structuralism remained captive to the linguistic model, it fell into a rigid descriptive and normative dilemma, and the results of the analysis became identical, no matter how different its fields were.

But soon these doubts about the integrity of structuralism turned into a critical current that attempts to criticize the abstract structural descriptiveness and its linguistic model that it generalized to the human sciences. When Derrida gave a lecture in 1966 at the University of "Hopkins" in the United States of America, then the French students' revolution in 1968 came to confirm the fading of the sun of structuralism and all its connection to objectivity.

Perhaps the transition from structuralism to semiotics is the most prominent evidence of the collapse of the objective description established by structuralism. It is known that the school of (Russian formalists) appeared in Russia between 1915 and 1930, and called for attention to the internal relations of the literary text, and considered literature as a linguistic system with semiological means of reality, and not as a reflection of reality. And ruled out the

relationship of literature ideas, philosophy and society. Structuralism has developed some of the assumptions that the Russian Formalists came up with.

The second source from which structuralism was derived is (New Criticism), which appeared in the forties and fifties of the twentieth century in America, as its scholars saw that "poetry is a kind of artistic mathematics" (Ezra Pound), and that there is no need for content, but what is important is the poetic template (Hume), and that poetry has no other purpose than poetry itself (John Crow Ransom).

As for linguistics, it is the third source from which structuralism was derived, and perhaps it is the most important of these sources, especially the linguistics of Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913), who is considered the father of structural linguistics, through his lectures (Lessons in General Linguistics) that were published by his students in 1916 after his death. Although he did not use the word (structure), all structural trends came out of his tongues, as he paved the way for the independence of the literary text as a special linguistic system. And a difference between language and speech: (Language) for him is the product of society for the verbal faculty, while (speech) is an individual event related to the performance and the self-ability of the speaker.

And as we mentioned before; At the end of the second decade of the twentieth century, the opinions of the Swiss scientist (Ferdinand Saussure) met with the prevailing critical currents in Europe, so that the structuralist thought emerged in the contemporary and modern critical study.

In fact, the structural roots go back a long way, since Aristotle, Al-Jahiz, Al-Askari, Al-Jurjani, Qudama, Ibn Tabataba, Hegel, and Marx.

In the nineteenth century, the Jewish social researcher Durkheim called for the theory called the "collective mind", and called for the study of social phenomena as "independent things". Accordingly, the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure appeared with his theory of the "language phenomenon", where he stripped language of its connotations. The familiar sign is a system of symbols based on bilateral relations, hence the idea of "structure".

## 2- The concept of structuralism:

Among the most prominent of what Saussure strongly decided is the principle of "the arbitrariness of the linguistic symbol", which means that the forms of human communication are nothing but systems consisting of a group of arbitrary relations, i.e.: relations that are not related naturally, logically or functionally to the meanings of the natural world, and that every linguistic system depends on the unreasonable principle of the symbol's arbitrariness and arbitrariness, that is: just as the collective mind of "Durkheim" is arbitrary and arbitrary and imposes on people what is outside of themselves, and from here the idea of "symology" was emanated, i.e. the science of semantics, or sign and suggestion.

De Saussure is considered the first pioneer of structuralism in the modern era, and he made four important discoveries, including: the principle of duality of verbal relations