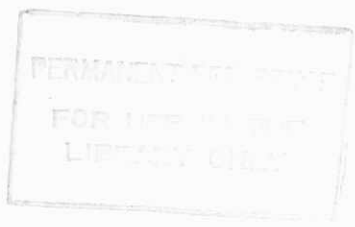
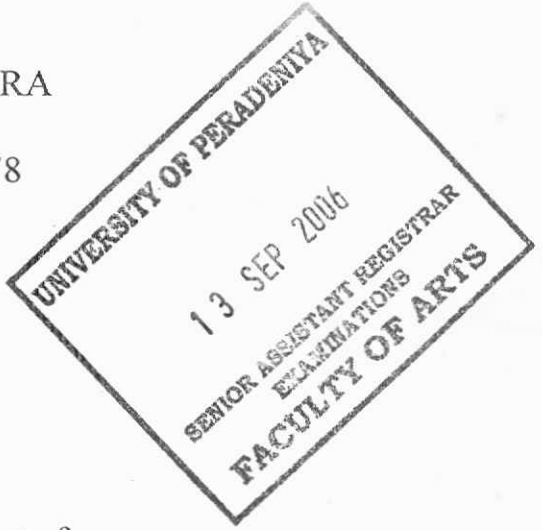


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A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF POST-MARXIST CRITIQUE  
OF  
CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY MARXISM



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## ABSTRACT

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A Discourse Analysis of post-Marxist Critique of Classical and Contemporary Marxism.

The 'failure' of classical Marxism and the leading communist parties to explain new forms of social movements and antagonisms such as student, feminist, green, gay, homosexual and religious fundamentalist which arose outside the class struggle left a space for post-Marxists and radical intellectuals to intervene in politics since 1960s. Antonio Gramsci's anti-fatalistic, anti-deterministic, anti-mechanistic and anti-metaphysical total historicism and collective praxis first theorized the way to revolution in economically and ideologically developed countries. Political theorists, Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe having been directly influenced by Gramsci, develop a new Marxian version called post Marxism consistent with the challenges posed by post-philosophies, postmodernism, late capitalism and Lacanian psychoanalysis. Consequently, post-Marxism becomes on one hand a Marxist alternative to, not an abandonment of, Marxism and on the other hand a critique against dogmatic, deterministic, reductionist, objectivist, essentialist and ephiphenomenalist categories of Marxism.

The main paradox of post Marxism is that it simultaneously produces a 'threat' or otherness to post-Marxist discourse. This study is mainly a post-Marxist critique of classical and contemporary Marxism and reveals how the otherness limits post Marxist discourse itself. Similarly, the study aims to show how the post Marxist alternative has been questioned not only by classical Marxist categories but also by global developments of capitalism. Though post Marxism is greatly applicable to an understanding of how ideology is structured at a given time, the primacy of politics or the place of the subject in politics, the study reveals the validity of classical Marxist categories in the act of overthrowing existing Marxism. As post Marxist hegemonic form of politics and identity politics repress classical Marxist political categories such as dialectics, historical consciousness, praxis, labor process, objective economic process, production and the logic of capital, they become a real threat to post-Marxist discourse. On the other hand, this suspension deadlocks post-Marxist discourse. As discourse has been formulated by expelling its otherness, post-Marxist discourse is also limited by itself.