

File spoon-archives/bhaskar.archive/bhaskar_2003/bhaskar.0312, message 319**Subject: BHA: RE: Reading Texts****Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2003 11:47:59 -0500****From: "Moodey, Richard W" <MOODEY001-AT-gannon.edu>**

Hi Mark,

What you have written makes sense to this self-styled "critical realist." But we have no pope of CR, who can proclaim what is and is not the vera doctrina. I like to add other sensory metaphors to your "point to," which suggests a visual metaphor for knowing. Words can be intellectual tools by which we touch, grasp, taste, hear, smell, etc. the realities to which you refer. I believe they facilitate our knowing realities -- Steve believes that they get in the way to such an extent that we never really do touch "the Real."

Regards,

Dick

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark A. Foster [mailto:owner-AT-markfoster.net]

Sent: Sat 12/20/2003 7:46 AM

To: bhaskar-AT-lists.village.virginia.edu

Cc:

Subject: BHA: Reading Texts

I posted the following on another list and would be interested in comments, e.g., does it fall under critical realism.

Language cannot be reified. Words are not things and do not speak to us in a vacuum. They are social restructurations (historically based constructions) which may, under certain circumstances, point to transitive, or contingent, realities and intransitive, or unconditional realities.

Hermeneutically, words also have no meaning apart from the contextualization of the speaker or writer and the recontextualization of the listener or reader. Phenomenologically, the listener/reader should attempt, intersubjectively, to get as close as possible to the "intensional intentionality" (the understanding of complex mental states) of the speaker/writer. Ultimately, the "feat" of understanding is accomplished by thoroughly analyzing the structure of a text through higher and lower criticism and whatever other tools may be appropriate.

We only have our own eyes. We can either use them attempt to *see* the a text from its own perspective or from our own (with all our preconceptions). If we simply read a text without criticizing it, we will usually end up doing the latter by default.

Mark A. Foster * <http://markfoster.net>

"Sacred cows make the best hamburger"

-- Mark Twain and Abbie Hoffman

--- from list bhaskar-AT-lists.village.virginia.edu ---

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