WHAT IS IDEOLOGY?

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Multiple uses of the term “Ideology”

2. Ideology and other aspects of social relations/practices (recapitulation)
   2.1 Ideology as a practice, contrasted with political and economic practice.
      DEFINITION: Ideological practice is the social process through which lived experiences are transformed into cognitive products – beliefs and values -- integrated into a person’s subjectivity.
   2.2 Once again: Type vs Dimension of practice
   2.3 Ideology, Culture, Consciousness, Nonconscious subjectivity
      • Patriarchal ideology versus Patriarchal culture
      • Bourgeois ideology versus Bourgeois culture
   2.4 Key dynamic issue: contradictions between ideological and cultural practices

II. THERBORN’S ANALYSIS

1. Basic objectives & definition
   • The historical investigation of ideology.
   • To expand the concept of ideology to encompass nonclass subjectivities/subjects.
   • To give an account of the content and specific forms of “interpellation”
     • the fundamentally contradictory character of the process of subject-formation
   Definition: “The operation of ideology in human life involves, fundamentally, constituting and patterning how human being live their lives as conscious, reflecting initiators of acts in a universe of meaning....In this sense, ideology constitutes human beings as subjects.”

2. Conceptual Distinctions on the Terrain of Ideology
   2.1 Modes of “Interpellation”
      1. The meaning of interpellation = subjection & qualification
         • Subjection = the effects of ideology on individual subjectivity;
         • Qualification = effects of such subjectivity on the individual’s insertion into social relations.
      2. Modes of interpellation: answers to three questions: What exists? What is good? What is possible?
      3. Ambiguity in “what is good”: beliefs versus dispositions
   2.2 Material Matrix of Ideology: sanctions & affirmations; discursive & nondiscursive practices;
   2.3 The Analysis of Contradictions and Transformations of Ideology
      1. Intergenerational perspective: Transformations of ideologies always presuppose an existing ideology
      2. Key idea: Changes in social structures →
         • change the forms of sanctions/affirmations and
         • generate disjunctions of subjection and qualification.
      3. Contradictions & the temporality of change
      4. Can new ideas and ideological struggle “change people’s minds”?