

Dissymétrie et amplitude dans le débat public contemporain

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*Amusez-le du moins à débattre avec vous;
Faites-lui perdre temps tandis qu'en assurance
La galère s'éloigne avec son espérance.*
(Corneille)

Abstract: My paper focuses on the concept of public debate and investigates the theoretical consequences implied by the presence of dissymmetry. Even though we expect competitiveness when two or more parties discuss public matters, we nevertheless presuppose that such a discussion is done in a symmetrical way. A closer examination of how things really happen leads us to think that a certain hermeneutical difference is at work, and it creates several forms of dissymmetry (conceptual dissemblance, conceptual confusion or extrinsic attribution of meaning). I illustrate the above by analyzing a few recent cases of substantial debates.

Keywords: public debates, dissymmetry, hermeneutical difference, conceptual dissemblance, conceptual confusion, extrinsic attribution of meaning