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Foucault et l'archéologie du savoir en tant que topologie

Foucault's archeology of knowledge as topology

Abstract: Foucault's epistemological revolution is well-known for some outstanding contributions such as the history of marginal objects (the madness, the clinic), the analysis of knowledge in relation to institutions, the idea of discontinuity in the formation of human sciences, the notion of the autonomy of discourse, and the idea of spatialization of discursive facts. This paper is aiming to show that the archeology of discourse, being also a transformation of critique, deals with the concepts of critique of reason in the discursive sense. After the "historicization of transcendental" – the transformation of pure reason in historical reason, which is described by Foucault – the notion of a priori takes a discursive turn with the archeology of knowledge itself. This is the critical foundation of a new épistémè. As the archeology analyses the historical and discursive conditions of possibility of knowledge, it must be understood also as topology, in line with the Kantian critique itself.

Keywords: Foucault, archeology of knowledge, discourse, critique, topology, discontinuity, spatialization of discourse.