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Investigating the Elementary Fourth Grade Students` Ontological Beliefs and the Textbooks of Heavenly Gifts According to the Ontological Components in the Fundamental Transformation Document

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the viewpoints of fourth grade students on the knowledge of God and the universe based on the ontological principles embodied in the theoretical foundations of the Fundamental Transformation Document (inspired by Mulla Sadra's theory); and reviewing the textbook of divine gifts book for second-to-fourth-grade, in term of convergence between these foundations as well. The statistical population includes the book Theoretical Foundations of Fundamental Transformation, 2011, the second to fourth grade divinely gift books and among the fourth grade female students in the Tehran 20 district, 25 were randomly selected from non-profit and public schools. The research method is qualitative using phenomenological and contextual analysis. Content analysis was used to extract Hawking component from themes analysis and Shannon entropy method was used for content analysis data. The results disclosed that there is a consensus among students about the ontology and components of this part of the fundamental transformation document. The Shannon entropy coefficient also showed that familiarity with the attributes of God by 55 hundred, how to relate to God by 24 and referring to the blessings of God by 20 hundred, respectively, was the most important and least important in the heavenly gift books, which requires further investigation for a strong connection. Between the innumerable attributes of God and the blessings associated with these attributes, it is central to the objectivist perspective of thinking and reasoning to provide the ground for the cultivation of childhood creativity.

Keywords: Ontology, Fundamental Transformation Document, Divine Book, Students.

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Problem Statement

Determining the purpose and the direction of education in the Islamic Republic like any other concrete subject depends on philosophical ontological abstractions. The nature and status of man is a question that all philosophical schools consider whether to occur in the name of anthropology and ontology or as epistemology and ontology. It goes without saying that the Islamic philosophy of education also contains at least a basic doctrine of monotheism and theism, and the theoretical foundations of teaching in Iranian-Islamic culture are no exception. The movement of Islamic schools of thought through different periods and seeing different philosophical, theological, and mystical teachings by Sadr al-Din Shirazi took place in the form of transcendent wisdom, and at present the Sadrian and New Sadrian attitude is a well-known and accepted philosophy in Shiite and Iranian philosophy.

In view of this, in this article, by the ontological foundations, we mean the Sadrian foundations which are also the result of the millennial effort of Muslim scholars.

The basic foundations of education from the perspective of the document of "Theoretical Foundations of Fundamental Transformation in the Formal Public Education System of the Islamic Republic of Iran", which we refer to in this paper in brief form as the Principles of Transformation Document, which is considered as the theoretical supporting for the Transformation Document of Education and Training is organized in five ontological, anthropological, epistemological, ontological and theological sections. It is expected that the attitude embodied in the document, outlook on all aspects of formal education and education policies and activities. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to examine one of the most important educational aspects of the aforementioned document, namely, to understand students` beliefs regarding ontological issues such as divine attributes, the creation of the universe, and the role of the man (student) in this spiritual direction on the basis of the document of fundamental, as well as determining the degree of convergence between the heavenly textbook and the ontological foundations mentioned in the document. Thus, we seek to answers to the following questions

1- What are the main ontological categories according to the document of fundamental?

2-What is the level of students' understanding of the concepts of ontological components?

3- To what extent the ontological components mentioned in the fundamental theoretical document in the second to fourth books of heaven's gifts has been paid attention?

Method

This research has been conducted in a descriptive – practical method. According to the research questions, the research was conducted in the form of content analysis and Shannon entropy and phenomenology. Data collection tool was a researcher-made content analysis checklist based on the categorization index. The components of ontology (God, which are divided into three parts (referring to the attributes of God, the blessings of God, communication with God), beings (tangible and intangible beings), the material and non-material worlds, and referring to beyond the senses) are abundant.

Findings and Results

The findings of the study reveals that , the mention of divine obvious attributes in the textbook was mostly intended by the authors, and it is important to point out that besides aligning the attributes of God to many blessings such as generosity and citing to blessings, given to us by God, it is also to be noted through rationality, and objectivity, because the child with these three views of God's blessings would understands better the divine attributes, and this applies to each of God's attributes. As Imam Khomeini also stated about thinking in a book entitled as the interpretation of Forty Narration (2004) the first steps in human growth and excellence is thinking and contemplation and Tabatabai and Chin Awhe (1393) have shown that thinking

training in power and divine blessings can be effective in purifying human nature and enhancing his spirituality. And it is clear throughout the Holy Quran that the great call for thought, contemplation, reason and insight is presented clearly. (Tabatabai, 2015)

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