

Contradictions between competence and action – legitimizing of educational claims

Through the past decades, many new actors were trying to take part in educational reforms. These actors have come increasingly from external spheres (transnational, business, non-government sphere etc.). They have been striving to connect with the existing audible discourses or they have created their own audibility by making up new educational normatives which have become taken for granted. On many levels, these educational claims are colliding and new condition of pushing them to curriculum documents creates differentiation of discourse channels: not only classical strategic documents, but also for example, video stream entries or debates, social media groups and others. In contemporary diversified educational discourse, new education claims are crystallising as natural demands of contemporary society, or our age, or economy, or, nowadays more and more, as the demands of the technological change. Voices of some of actors are transferred to “society”, “age”, “economy”, “technology” – all these “actors” need particularly educated humans. In this mainly theoretical conference proposal I employ the “metaphysic of communication” of late Lyotard in order to capture legitimization practices of the actors when trying to push their educational claims. These neutralizations and collisions can give rise to contradiction and paradoxes between competence and action. The question is: What does it mean to participate in educational reform? How different legitimizations can generate incommensurability in necessary conditions to be a participant and to be also competent, and for what kind of action? Probably, there is better way to capture these conditions: as multiplicity of discourses considered according to late Lyotard as purposes, which can collide to the degree of such neutralization that creates “the Different”. On the case of the Czech educational reform debates which have been taking part in 2017 before legislative elections in Autumn 2017, particularly on the events consisting of a public TV debate, a video stream of non-government organization debate, several press releases of this organization, and their Facebook events, I would like to show theoretical possibilities of conceptualising of voice, competence, relevance, and action, as categories, which are occupied through legitimization (or neutralization) with not-self-evident content.