

# Theory and Practice in Habermas and Honneth

## Abstract

The purpose of this paper was to examine the possibility of mediating between theory and practice that is inquired in Hegelian Marxism. This purpose was served by reviewing the critical theory developed by J.Habermas and A.Honneth. A theoretical-universal approach of Habermas succeeded in overcoming the problem of an irrational, but it raised a question about the motivation for moral practice. This difficulty takes place under an influence of historical philosophy. On the other hand, Honneth's approach of "recognition" regards "the other of justice" excluded by Habermas as the motivation for practice. By dividing recognition theory into three themes, the author concluded that; a practical-normative approach of Honneth can diagnose "pathology of the social" which is not reduced to the question of justice. However, the approach runs a risk to change practice into an irrational at the same time. In the end, it is verified that both of their approach to mediating between theory and practice have shifted to the level of "life-world" theory. Therefore we pointed out that sociology should work out a strategy, by which justice is objectively motivated from communication analysis of life-world.