

## **Liberal Democracy of America and Islamic Republic of Iran; Discourses to Co-Exist/Conflict**

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The focus of the present study is Laclau and Mouffe`s argument that “a discourse attempts to transform elements into moments by reducing their polysemy to a fully fixed meaning” (Jørgensen et al, 2002:28). The application of this discussion is that any dominant discourse can maintain its superiority by at least, as Karim Karim depicts, “transmuting the words, images and symbols of other discursive modes that threaten its propaganda efforts” (Henry et al, 2002:26).

The American liberal democracy has been known as the standard democratic discourse for a long time, when the Islamic Revolution occurred in Iran in 1979. The appearance of a religious democracy which claims to institutionalize the democratic institutions and processes could be counted as a parallel or a resistant discourse, coexisting or threatening, to the discourse of the American liberal democracy.

The history of the relations between the United States of America and Islamic Republic of Iran has passed thirty years tensions and turbulences with some dims of dialogue almost always broken. My main concern in this article is to explore how the liberal democracy of America, as a dominant discourse, has attempted to maintain its position as the authentic reference to articulate the meaning of the concept of democracy, while the democracy presented by Islamic Republic of Iran is represented as an abnormal, inferior and stereotyped version by America.

In other words, the present research is to examine how the American liberal democracy has been otherizing the democracy in Islamic Republic of Iran during these years and how these strategies has enriched the resistance discourse in Iran and conflict, more than any potential to dialogue, in both sides.

### **References**

- Henry, Frances, Tator, Carol, 2002, *Discourses of Domination: Racial Bias in the Canadian English-language Press*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press
- Jørgensen, Marianne, J. Phillips, Louise, 2002, *Discourse analysis as theory and method*, London, SAGE