Chapter 8
Historically Reading the Concept of Gender by the Dilemma of Heterodox–Orthodox Vision

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ABSTRACT

In this chapter, the authors analyze the concept of gender and its history; they look at the crisis that is caused by this concept in terms of both orthodox economy and the heterodox economy. A wide range of feminist economics arguments are considered. Feminist economics arguments correspond to the points of Antonio Gramsci’s “hegemony” and Louis Althusser’s “ideology.” Starting with both philosophers’ concepts, the authors explicate the dilemma of orthodox-heterodox economics. First, they discuss the vision of heterodox-orthodox economics. Then, they discuss how technology becomes an important part of orthodox economics, and through the aforementioned philosophers, they discuss what would happen in the economic system if this situation changes.

INTRODUCTION

The history of economics is actually a history of war among whole human beings in all historical, sociological, political, etc. areas. In this war, beginning from the ancient times until rising of monotheistic religions, women always had much less importance; they had a secondary role in the economic history.

Before mentioning the feminist economics’ becoming a part of economic history, it is necessary to mention some concepts which are directly related to the topic. But, firstly we should examine the relationship between technology and heterodox-orthodox vision.

Of course, economics history has not been formed by itself; it was affected by many important elements and one of the most significant one of these elements is technology. Technology not only affected how products are produced, what would be produced etc., but also the economics view.

Economic crisis got deeper in parallel with the progress the technology; because, it was formed
only by firms on the thought of how much money
they would earn. Technology does not really deal
with human beings. This case is caused by the
orthodox economics vision. Because, the structure
of orthodox economics, which was never interested
in people needs, caused increase in the technology.

So, in this study we will examine how technol-
yogy is affected by the orthodox economics vision.
What we will say about the orthodox economics’
improprieties will show us the heterodox economics
view more clearly and through this approach,
technology will be produces for the need of people.

We choose the feminist economics thoughts
for two reasons: The first one is, the orthodox
economics do not give importance to woman’s
thoughts about economics vision. The second
one is, as one of the approaches of the heterodox
economics, feminist economics can give some
useful advices to technological improvement by
the view of women’s.

In this study, our methodology is firstly, to
mention about some concepts which are related
to working life in terms of heterodox-orthodox
concepts. Secondly, we will elaborate the concepts
of heterodox-orthodox economics. Thirdly, we
will introduce the relationship between feminist
economics-heterodox economics and try to tell
what causes economic crisis through the dilemma
of heterodox-orthodox economics. Consequently,
we will briefly conclude the dilemma of heterodox-
orthodox economics; we will summarize the point
of view of these two concepts about crisis.

GLANCING AT GENDER AND
FEMINIST ECONOMICS

Why is Heterodox
Economics Important?

Firstly, we must examine ‘gender’ concept affect-
ing not only economics field but also entire social
life. We can say that contemporary view accepts
that human sexuality have two types; heterosexual-
ity, namely, ‘female’ and ‘male’ genders; and ho-
mosexuality. These three human sexualities refer
to the biological presence of humans. However,
gender that is defined by biological sex points out
to a different situation. It attributes home-domestic
roles to women, home-external roles to men.

We mean that while cleaning the house, taking
care of children etc. are attributed by society to
women; earning living is accepted to be the duty
of men. Namely, distribution of duty according
to biological sex is ‘gender’ (Serdaroğlu, 2010,
pp. 9). The effect of gender reflected in terms
of women working through the concepts ‘discrim-
ination’ and ‘segregation’. Discrimination is
“paying different salaries for same job or paying
different salaries for different jobs to people who
have equal productivity” (Lordoğlu & Özkaplan,
2003, pp. 224).

“Because, while the role of earning a living for
the family is attributed to men, the role of taking
care of children, housework etc. is attributed to
women […]” (Ecevit, 2000, pp. 157). Jobs that are
divided as ‘woman jobs’ and ‘man jobs’ mean seg-
regation (Lordoğlu & Özkaplan, 2003, pp. 224).

Of course, problems by gender concept occur
at working life of women. As it is seen on every
field like sociological, etc. economic events are
accepted to be male issues. Because of this reason,
women haven’t gained a seat in the progress of
economics history. It is possible to examine the
progress in the history of economics mainly by
two concepts.

Orthodox Economics: It is the name of giving
neo-classical economics apprehension, because of
it has a hegemonic way which is expected whole
economics education, institutions and politics and
all other thoughts. Neo-classical economics has a
widespread superiority. Since 1970s Keynesian
economics did not produce to solutions to solve
the problems of economics in praxis and as a result
of this in theory it has been argued. Neo-classical
theory has gained superiority (Emiroğlu, 2006,
p. 661-662).

Heterodox Economics: Economists who share
the point of view that economy shouldn’t be limited
to orthodox economy and this is a disadvantage
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