

The Rise of Seshatism

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In this paper we present a hypothesis that Seshatism will rise significantly over the world in future populations compared to Platonism, due to less discrimination against women, left-handedness and genetic inheritance of the right-hemisphere dominance in the brain. This will lead to a change of the bias in philosophy from crediting knowledge to abstract ideas, to crediting knowledge by causality.

There is no evidence that left-handedness^[1] has been dominant at any point in the history of human populations. However, in pre-historic times, the fraction of left-handedness was significantly higher than today, possibly as much as 44%^[2]. An evolutionary explanation could be that left-hemisphere dominance versus right-hemisphere dominance was more stable, having a lifestyle and environment which required both creative thinking and communication. A left-handed person uses the right-hemisphere and a right-handed person uses the left-hemisphere as the dominant part of the brain.

With the invention of agriculture, the traits of right-hemisphere dominance might have caused problems for a stable society and been associated with crime and mental illness, which was often imagined as being possessed by evil spirits. This association of “left-handed” with “evil” was significant and caused discrimination against left-handed people. However, left-handedness was also associated with divinity in some civilizations. This polarization of good and evil might have influenced religions and mythology as a more binary way of thinking, which became more abstract over time and led to the rise of Platonism^[3]. With other words, the “binary way of thinking” is the left-hemisphere of viewing the right-hemisphere as a categorisation into “good” and “evil”.

However, Platonism is not only a rise of abstract thought, but also a collapse in concrete thought. This might have been caused by a development of male avatars replacing female avatars in mythology, with increased oppression of women and their loss of the role as “wisdom-givers” as balance to the rising role of the “philosopher” in the Western civilization. Oppression of women allowed control over reproduction and more strict artificial selection for left-hemisphere dominance.

The reason for this transition, can be explained by looking at the events prior to ancient Greece, with the collapse of the Minoan civilization^[4], which worshipped female deities. The Minoan civilization was weakened by the Thera volcano eruption and conquered by Mycenaeans. This might have gradually changed the ideological balance from female deities to male deities over time and influenced the view of women in Abrahamic religions.

Seshat^[5] was an ancient Egyptian goddess of writing, wisdom and knowledge. Later, a male god named “Thoth” was put in the same role, with Seshat as his daughter or sometimes wife. The Egyptian empire used female scribes who worshipped Seshat. Yet, in Abrahamic religions it became less common to teach women to read and write. The justice system developed after Plato, based on written laws, excluded women from important rights such as property ownership, voting etc.

Our modern civilization increases women rights, which leads to the loss of strict artificial selection for left-hemisphere dominance and Platonism, which in turn increases the fraction of right-hemisphere dominance and the demand for Seshatism^[6]. When this fraction returns to normal genetic diversity, which might be as high as 44%, there will be a corresponding change of bias in philosophy from crediting knowledge to abstract ideas, to crediting knowledge by causality.

In summary, increase of women rights increases left-handedness, which in turn increases Seshatism. This hypothesis was inspired by studying conversations with GPT-3^[7] and historical evidence.

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