

In Progress PhD Research Proposal

Title: Ground of the Structure of Reality

Student: Ali Sanaeikia

A- Overview of the research:

In my research, I will approach the meta-ground question. It asks, what, if anything, grounds the grounding relations? Most people who approach this challenge are realists about grounding. Considering grounding talk, people usually divide into two major groups. Some are realists about grounding, like Bennett, deRossett and Dasgupta, and some are skeptics about it, Like Wilson, Hofweber and Sider. Realists try to find a solution facing the challenge. Skeptics try to dismiss the grounding talk by pointing to it.

Answering the meta-ground question needs answering some interconnected issues. Firstly, the realism vs irrealism: In recent years, Thompson introduced irrealism about grounding (Thompson, 2018). According to her account, there is a distinction between eliminativism about grounding and non-eliminativism about it. Non-eliminativists accept the attacks of skeptics to the grounding talk, but they point to some benefits of the grounding without which we cannot talk of the structure of reality. In this research, In addition to her account, I will introduce structural realism about the structure of reality. This is a familiar thesis in the philosophy of science. Structural realists agree that the structure always maintain during every paradigm shift in sciences. Approaching this question needs the clarifying of some other interconnected issues: firstly we should point out some other approaches regarding the structure of reality talk. So, in addition to irrealism, I would introduce Structural realism about the structure of realism and grounding talk. Then, I would investigate some difficulties with this structure has, which some of it always being assumed with most people, like well-foundedness, asymmetry, irreflexivity, transitivity, fundamentality, etc.

Although adherents of grounding presuppose some intrinsic properties for grounding, like irreflexivity, asymmetry and transitivity, some people tried to attack these presuppositions and tried to give another account of grounding talk.

In my research, I will approach the meta-ground question. It asks, what, if anything, grounds the grounding relations? Most people who approach this challenge are realists about grounding. In recent years, Thompson introduced irrealism about grounding (Thompson, 2018). According to her account, there is a distinction between eliminativism about grounding and non-eliminativism about it. Non-eliminativists accept the attacks of skeptics to the grounding talk, but they point to some benefits of the grounding without which we cannot talk of the structure of reality. In addition to her account, I will introduce structural realism about the structure of

reality. T In my research, I will approach the meta-ground question. It asks, what, if anything, grounds the grounding relations? Most people who approach this challenge are realists about grounding I will investigate the possibility of a holistic coherentism about the structure of reality

In my research, I will approach the meta-ground question. It asks, what, if anything, grounds the grounding relations? Most people who approach this challenge are realists about grounding. Considering grounding talk, people usually divide into two major groups. Some are realists about grounding, like Bennett, deRossett and Dasgupta, and some are skeptics about it, Like Wilson, Hofweber and Sider. Realists try to find a solution facing the challenge. Skeptics try to dismiss the grounding talk by pointing to it.

Answering the meta-ground question firstly needs clarifying of this debate. In recent years, Thompson introduced irrealism about grounding (Thompson, 2018). According to her account, there is a distinction between eliminativism about grounding and non-eliminativism about it. Non- eliminativists accept the attacks of skeptics to the grounding talk, but they point to some benefits of the grounding without which we cannot talk of the structure of reality. In this research, In addition to her account, I will introduce structural realism about the structure of reality. This is a familiar thesis in the philosophy of science. Structural realists agree that the structure always maintain during every paradigm shift in sciences.

In my research, I will approach the meta-ground question (MGQ). It asks, what, if anything, grounds the grounding relations? Approaching it, I have to clarify some interconnected debates in grounding talk on which MGQ depends. Although most people who answer to this challenge are realist about grounding, we should take a step back and investigate other possibilities. Considering grounding talk, people usually divide into two major groups. Some are realists about grounding and some are skeptics about it. . In recent years, Thompson introduced irrealism about grounding (Thompson, 2018). According to her account, there is a distinction between eliminativism about grounding and non-eliminativism about it. Non- eliminativists accept the attacks of skeptics to the grounding talk, but they point to some benefits of the grounding without which we cannot talk of the structure of reality. In this research, In addition to her account, I will introduce structural realism about the structure of reality. This is a familiar thesis in the philosophy of science. Structural realists agree that the structure always maintain during every paradigm shift in sciences.

In my research, I will approach the meta-ground question (MGQ). It asks, what, if anything, grounds the grounding relations? Approaching it, I have to clarify some interconnected debates in grounding talk on which MGQ depends. Firstly, I should point to the debates between irrealism and realism about grounding. In this debate, in the camp of irrealists, I will introduce structural realism in metaphysical explanations which is a barrowed term from philosophy of science. Showing my position in the debate and usefulness of grounding talk without being a realist about it, I will go on to investigate the properties of grounding which have been presupposed by most philosophers. They assume grounding is asymmetry, irreflexive and

transitive. This approach put them on a position to think of the structure of reality as a linear one which has some foundations. Facing the other side of the foundationalis about grounding, I will examine the possibility of holistic coherentism about the structure of reality, which has not been taken seriously in the literature of grounding.

By having these philosophical tools in my hand, I will approach to MGQ. Most of the answers to MGQ are from the point of view of a realist. I will examine this approaches both as a realist and also as an irrealist. Then I would reach a positive account regarding MGQ.