French Thought

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## The Self and the Other: Poststructuralism

**Exercise 1 –**

With the person next to you, discuss what the concepts of ‘self’ and ‘other’ mean to you. How could they be defined? How does this definition relate to what you have studied so far?

**Exercise 2 –**

**Study of a short extract from Lévinas.**

* What difference do you see between ‘collectivité’ and ‘communion’?
* Why is Levinas asserting that the primary relation to the other is ‘sans médiation’?
* How is it possible to explain that ‘l’espace intersubjectif est initialement asymétrique’? Where does the asymmetry come from?

**Study of a short extract from Deleuze.**

* How does Sartre define the ‘self’ and the ‘other’ according to Deleuze?
* How does Deleuze differ from Sartre?
* What does Deleuze mean by ‘structure’ here?
* How does he explain the ‘self’ and the ‘other’?

**Exercise 3 –**

Discussion: How do the two conceptions of ‘self’ and ‘other’ differ? What does poststructuralism say about these concepts?

**Key words –**

cartesian thought, structuralism, poststructuralism, speech, discourse, concepts, fictions, construct, binary structures, stable truths, myth, integrity of the self