1. On what grounds have feminists critiqued Darwin’s theory of evolution? What kind of an approach to critique does Grosz suggest instead?

Many feminists, Sue V. Rosser, for example, point out “bias” and “androcentrism” in Darwin’s theory of sexual selection, claiming that it provides a justification for Euro-centric, phallocentric and racist domination that creates patriarchal culture. (qtd. in Grosz, 2005, pp. 16) Grosz admits its “bias”, and it is also applied for the relationship between human as domination and nature as subordination. However, she suggests Darwin’s theory of evolution provides a new mode of interpretation, an understanding of the productivity of nature, biological (sexual) differences and the becoming of “individual variation”. Instead of ignoring his theory it would be fruitful for feminists approaching evolutionary biology, because it may be of value for developing a more politicized, radical,feminist understanding of matter and transformation. (Grosz, 2005, pp.17-18)

 (3) Discuss the analogies of ‘differences within’ in Foucault’s conception of power and resistance and Darwin’s conception of variation and natural selection.

The concepts of both Foucault and Darwin illustrate are quite similar., Foucault mentions the general idea of the relations between power and resistance, “power produces resistance which transforms power which produce s resistances－in a never-ending spiral of self-transformation” (Grosz, 2005, pp. 29) Power, oppression produces resistance, just as XXX produced the Reformation and Protestantism. Darwin’s theory of evolution also works in the same discourse of power and resistance relations, and it suggests the possibility of producing variations in species under the circumstances of natural power oppressions are arisen and it is never ending spiral as long as they are alive.

(5) What does it mean that feminist theory should put itself at risk and how might we understand as its own “evolutionary” modes of self-overcoming, where it is confronted with its own limits?

Feminists traditionally have criticized psychology or sociology for long time and dismissed biology, therefore, reflecting and examining/ reconfiguring theories of biology like Darwin were rarely conducted by feminists. (Grosz, 2005, pp. 14) The risk that feminists should confront is questioning authoritarian and powerful science, like Darwin’s theory, and biology as immutable, Darwin’s theory reveals the continuities and repetitions of changing of species and the ambiguity and multilayered existence of species. (Grosz, 2005, pp.31) It also useful for the reevaluation of feminist methods and discourses, as self-overcoming transformation ‘is incessantly working in the life of all species. (Grosz, 2005, pp. 28) Yet, “evolutionary” theory is neither free, nor determined and could be temporal and changeable. “Rather it implies a notion of overdetermination, indetermination, and systemic openness that preclude precise determination.” (Grosz, 2005, pp. 32). So social and cultural life too are indeterminate – they could and can be otherwise; they have tensions within, and also produce transformation – a transformation that does not come from without but is already implicit in nature.,,

Feminist theory must put itself at risk, and change because its environmetns are changing also.

MAIKO



Re: Hata, week4

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Although Darwin’s theory has some “bias”, it is still useful for feminists to explore and apply it to their own theories. To study Darwin’s theory and apply it can provide a new perspective to solve problems in a patriarchal society. If there is a possibility to solve problems that feminists now facing, then it is worth trying. I agree with your idea that the theories of both Foucault and Darwin are quite similar in their logic (see comments above). They all illustrate that “power produces resistance” and Darwin extended it to “individual variation”. This shows that the relationship between domination and resistance should not always be considered as negative but has some positive aspects. I also agree with the idea that “feminists should confront is questioning authoritarian and powerful science, like Darwin’s theory, and biology as immutable”. Feminists should not always apply theories that are already used many times but take concepts to some new fields they rarely applied to. Yes! In addition, trying to apply a new perspective is necessary to develop feminists’ own theories.