A critical analysis of Positive and Negative Peace

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Abstract

Peace is a small word with a deeper meaning attached to it different interpretations, different perspectives and different understandings yet the meaning is one but for one's own self. Setting a benchmark about what peace means to a person is their own way of looking at it. But Peace is something which is vastly misinterpreted in today. Everyone has their own perceptions about it out of which only a small section actually come near in addressing 'peace'. In the present article, the word peace is the central focus and it has been written comparing the concepts of positive and negative peace. It is often stated that, the word peace is very often used and harmed and that since it lacks a satisfying definition and difficult to conceptualize.

Introduction

The term 'peace' initiates most freshly, 11th century from the Anglo French pes, and the Old French paris, meaning "peace, reconciliation, silence, agreement". But, *Pes* itself comes from the Latin *pax*, meaning "peace, compact, agreement, treaty of peace, tranquility, absence of hostility, harmony." The English word came into exercise in a variety of personal good wishes from c.1300 as a version of the Hebrew word shalom, which, according to Jewish theology, comes from a Hebrew verb meaning 'to restore'. Anyway it has numerous other meanings in addition to peace, including justice, good health, safety, well-being, prosperity, equity, security, good fortune, and friendliness.

Defining peace is not a simple because, like most every other word, it is strongly attached to personal implications. It is impressionable based on person vision of 'peace'and because of that fact peace has lot of definitions; "Peace is the normal, non-warring condition of a nation, group of nations, or the world", "Peace is an agreement or treaty between warring or antagonistic nations, groups, etc., to end hostilities and abstain from further fighting or antagonism", "Peace is a state of mutual harmony between people or groups, especially in personal relations: Try to live in peace with your neighbors", "Peace is the normal freedom from civil commotion and violence of a community; public order and security:", "Peace is the freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, an anxiety, an obsession, etc.; tranquility; serenity."

Peace has lot of definitions as above because, peace itself connected with various aspects; religion, education, social factors etc and peace is discussed with various terms such as inner peace, outer peace, positive and negative peace. Peace does not mean the total absence of any conflict. It means the absence of violence in all forms and the describing of conflict in a positive way. Hence Peace is more than just the absence of conflict or war. Peace is a multidimensional concept that can be viewed through the lens of both negative peace and positive peace.

Concept of Violence

Peace is a term that most usually refers to an absence of aggression, violence or hostility. **Violence** is an extreme form of aggression, such as assault, rape or murder. It has many causes, including frustration, exposure to violent media, violence in the home or neighborhood and a leaning to see other people's actions as aggressiveness even when they're

not. Violence and other forms of abuse are most usually understood as a pattern of behaviour intended to establish and uphold control over family, household members, intimate partners, colleagues, individuals or groups. While violent offenders are most frequently known to their victims, acts of violence and abuse may also be dedicated by strangers.

Violence and abuse may occur only once, can involve various tactics of slight manipulation or may occur frequently while increasing over a period of months or years. In any form, violence and abuse profoundly affect individual health and well-being. The root causes of all forms of violence are founded in the many types of disparity which continue to exist and grow in society. Violence and abuse are used to establish and maintain power and control over another person, and often reflect a disparity of power between the victim and the abuser. There are nine different forms of violence and abuse: Physical violence; Sexual violence; Emotional violence; Psychological violence; Spiritual violence; Cultural violence; Verbal Abuse; Financial Abuse; and, Neglect.

When conceptualizing violence, it is important to incorporate all aspects of violence while allocates room for understanding the relationship between the forms. A broader example is compulsory, one that includes not just war, torture and other physical abuse but also emotional abuse, oppression, and exploitation. Some of the peace research makes links among these different forms of violence, thus elucidating root causes. To differentiate between types of violence, Johan Galtung presents the concepts of direct and structural violence. Direct violence can take many forms. In its typical form, it involves the use of physical force, like killing or torture, rape, sexual assault, and beatings. Further, it understands that verbal violence, like humiliation or put downs, is also becoming more widely recognised as violence. Johan Galtung, further, describes direct violence as the "avoidable impairment of fundamental human needs or life which makes it impossible or difficult for people to meet their needs or achieve their full potential. Threat to use force is also recognised as violence." Structural violence exists when some groups, classes, genders, nationalities are assumed to have, and in fact do have, more access to goods, resources, and opportunities than other groups, classes, genders, nationalities and this imbalanced advantage is built into the very social, political and economic systems that govern societies, and the states. These tendencies may be obvious such as apartheid or slighter such as traditions or tendency to award some groups privileges over another.

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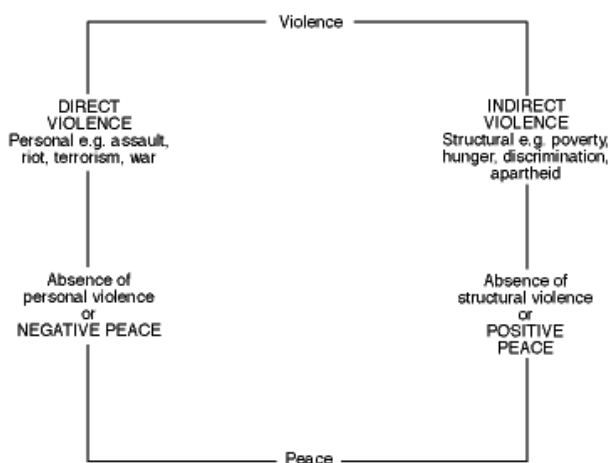
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Johan Galtung argues that with a very slight different notion of violence, it can respectively develop a more slight understanding of peace. If it achieve the absence of direct violence in society but still have systems in place that prohibit people from reaching their full potential. "The reason for the use of the terms 'negative' and 'positive' is clearly seen: The absence of personal violence does not lead to a positively defined condition, whereas the absence of structural violence is what we have referred to as social justice, which is positively defined condition (egalitarian distribution of power and resources).- Galtung (1969), p 183.

Positive peace and Negative peace

Peace is not just the absence of violence, it is much more. Peace is best understood through the concepts of "positive peace" and "negative peace". Negative peace is the absence of violence or the fear of violence; it is the definition of peace that we use in the Global Peace Index (GPI). Positive peace is the attitudes, institutions and structures, that when strengthened, lead to peaceful societies. The concept of peace undergone various changes in 1964 and Johan Galtung's ideas on peace is very important. Starting in the 1960s, several authors have been distinguishing between negative peace and positive peace. Amongst these, Johan Galtung defined in 1964 negative peace as the absence of direct violence and positive peace as the absence of indirect violence enabling persons to be integrated.

Positive Peace

Positive Peace is a true, lasting, and sustainable peace built on justice for *all* peoples. Efforts to achieve positive peace emphasize: establishing peace through world order by supporting international law, compliance with multilateral treaties, use of international courts, and nonviolent resolution of disputes, participation in international organizations, trade, and communication, establishing social equality and justice, economic equity, ecological balance; protecting citizens from attack, and meeting basic human needs, establishing a civil peace that provides the constitutional and legal means necessary to settle differences nonviolently , eliminating indirect violence, that shortens the life span of people, sustains unequal life chances, or reduces quality of life for any citizen ,Practicing conflict resolution as a foundation for building peaceful interpersonal relationships. The concept of positive peace involves the elimination of the root causes of war, violence, and injustice and the conscious attempt to build a society that reflects these commitments. Positive peace assumes an interconnectedness of all life.

Negative Peace

Negative peace is defined as a peace without justice. It is a false sense of "peace" that often comes at the cost of justice. In a negative peace situation, it may not see conflict out in the open, but the tension is boiling just beneath the surface because the conflict was never reconciled.

"Peace is not merely the absence of some negative force -war, tension, confusion, but it is the presence of some positive force–justice, goodwill, the power of the kingdom of God."- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Efforts to achieve negative peace emphasize: managing interpersonal and organizational conflict in order to control, contain, and reduce actual and potential violence, reducing the

incidence of war by eliminating the extreme dangers of the war system and limiting war through international crisis management, preventing war through strategic deterrence and arms control. The concept of negative peace addresses immediate symptoms, the conditions of war, and the use and effects of force and weapons. Words and images that reveal the horror of war and its aftermath are often used by writers, artists, and citizen groups in their efforts to stop it.

Table 01: Variation between negative and positive peace

NEGATIVE PEACE	POSITIVE PEACE
Absence:	**Presence:**
of war	of tranquility
of conflict	of harmony, well-being
of violence	of strengthened human bonds
of repression	of shared human values
of evil	of shared feelings of humanity

Source: Author originated source

Conclusion

Peace, like many theoretical terms, is difficult to define. Like happiness, harmony, justice, and freedom, peace is something frequently recognize by its absence. Thus, Johan Galtung, a founder of peace studies and peace research, has proposed the important distinction between "positive" and "negative" peace. "Positive" peace indicates the simultaneous presence of many desirable states of mind and society, such as harmony, justice, equity, and so on. "Negative" peace indicates the "absence of war" and other forms of large scale violent conflict. It is critical that understanding of peace because person may create peace depending their own understating. If person define something vague it will be a difficult to put in into practice and begin to build long lasting peace.

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