

Preface

In this research project of mine, undertaken on “The World, Subjectivity and Life-World *a la* Husserl’s Phenomenology”, it has been my intention to give a critical exposition of these three basic concepts in Husserl’s phenomenology and lay bare their interrelations. Husserl’s phenomenology encompasses a vast range of concerns and mine has been to carve out a fraction of the wide range of Husserl’s phenomenological research. But this is also the core area, the basic area around which Husserl’s thoughts revolve.

The problems of the world and subjectivity are not anything new. These have arrested the minds of philosophers throughout the history of philosophy, giving rise to epistemological, metaphysical and ontological debates. Yet, the introduction of Husserl’s method of reduction puts the problems in an altogether different perspective. Husserl’s concept of *Lebenswelt*, life-world is described as a discovery. Though not quite unrelated to his earlier works, this concept is something radical yet.

Husserl is by no means an easy thinker. He does not give himself to a perspicuous understanding. Hence, Husserl has been a challenge to me. I have tried my level best to read his mind as it should be. I have attempted to analyze, relate and reevaluate Husserl’s thoughts on the problematic.

In course of explicating the problem I have depended heavily on Husserl’s basic texts which are available in English translation. In cases of citing from the *Husserliana* or Husserl’s unpublished manuscripts I have

located the source. I have also taken the help of the excellent secondary literature afforded by Husserl scholars. I have taken care to authenticate all quotations by exact references. Lapses on a very few occasions may be excused as unmotivated irrationality.

About the content of the research project: Chapter I, the introductory chapter contains a general survey of what phenomenology is and a specification of my problem. In Chapter II, the problem of the world in general and its specific treatment within Husserl's phenomenology is discussed. In Chapter III, Husserl's concept of subjectivity is taken up in its different aspects. In Chapter IV, the concept of the life-world, introduced by Husserl at the end of his life is elucidated. Chapter V, the concluding chapter, is an attempt to show some parallelism between Husserl's thoughts and some Indian thinkers and to locate Husserl within the phenomenological tradition itself.

It is my submission that papers of mine titled "Husserl's Ontology of the World" and "Husserl on Transcendental Subjectivity" have been published by *Philosophical Papers*, Journal of the Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, and the third one "Life-World and the Crisis of Science" is published in "Musings on Philosophy: Perennial and Modern," the Proceedings of the Indian Philosophical Congress, 2003.

Nirankush Chakraborty
(Nirankush Chakraborty) 03/07