

Modern Sociological Theories:

Modern sociological theories emerged as a response to classical sociological theories even though sociology was built upon classical theories like Marxism, functionalism, and symbolic interactionism, modern theories now take into account issues like globalization, power structures, identify, and technology.

1. **Structural functionalism: (Neo-Functionalism):** based on classical functionalism, society is viewed as a system of interconnected components. Each component contributes to social stability and order.

✚ **Example:** in addition to supplying the economy with employees, the educational system also teaches social norms to individuals.

2. **Conflict Theory: (Neo-Marxism & Critical theory):** based on the concepts of Karl Marx to address race, gender, and other social injustices. Critical theory, which challenges capitalism, the media, and power structures, was first presented by the Frankfurt School (Adorno, Horkheimer)

✚ **Example:** in order to favour those in power and distract attention from social injustices, media companies manipulate public opinion.

3. **Symbolic Interactionism (Dramaturgy & Postmodern Perspective):** it focuses on micro-level interactions and how individuals create meaning through symbols and language. Erving Goffman's Dramaturgical Approach compares social life to theatre, where people perform roles based on social expectations.

✚ **Example:** a teacher acts differently in the classroom than at home, adjusting their performance to fit the situation.

4. **Feminist Theory:** this theory challenged the traditional sociological views by focusing on the gender inequalities. It focused on legal rights, workplace and reproductive, in addition to intersectionality.

✚ **Example:** one example of systematic inequality in the labour market is the gender pay gap

5. **Postmodernism & Poststructuralism:** this theory questions absolute truths and rejects grand narratives. Michel Foucault's concept of power and knowledge tells that power is within knowledge and institutions.

✚ **Example:** social media influencers illustrate online identities that might not present the actual world.

6. **Globalization & World-Systems Theory:** Immanuel Wallerstein's World-Systems Theory classifies countries into the core, semi-periphery, and periphery, highlighting global economic inequalities. Ulrich Beck's Risk Society discusses how global risks (climate change, pandemics) shape modern societies.

✚ **Example:** global trade is dominated by wealthy countries, while developing nations continue to rely on them for economic survival.