

Dissertation Title: Gadamer on Dialogue: A Critical Study
Researcher: Mr. Sombat Phornsiricharoenphant
Advisor: Dr. Roman Meinhold
Co-advisor: Prof. Dr. Gerhold K. Becker
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ABSTRACT

Engaging in dialogue with the traditional attitude, and perceiving dialogue as *a technique* or *an instrumental value (a means to end)*, is really required, but not sufficient, because the *means* or dialogue itself may be rejected if one distrusts the intention of other interlocutors who may use dialogue under the domination of certain methodologies (the subject-object schema) as per their own wills (subjectivity, subjective reflection). In this paradigm, the task of dialogue is to focus on answering the question of how to understand the speaker's/interlocutor's mind and intention through the use of dialogue.

The notion of dialogue according to Gadamer's philosophical hermeneutics illuminates an alternative insight upon the ontological aspect of dialogue and understanding toward human life and experience in this world. From this insight, the dissertation uses it as a platform to construct the essential characteristics of genuine dialogue that *has* value in itself (or having intrinsic value). In this context, the primary task of practicing dialogue has shifted from functioning as *a technique* (methodical approach) to seek for the understanding of the substantive meaning and the truth that is claimed by the subject matter of dialogue through the dialectic (the art of questioning and seeking truth). Based on this conviction, it may open and provide a promising possibility of building a culture of genuine, sincere and constructive dialogue among the plurality and diversity of human beings-in-the-world.