

'Liberty vs. Love': The Principal Contradiction of Human Culture

(2) The 'Liberty vs. Love' Contradiction and 'Ethics' at the Personal Level

Toru Nakagawa

Professor Emeritus, Osaka Gakuin University, Japan

Abstract This is the second report of applying the TRIZ/CrePS Methodology to the social field. A basic hypothesis, found in the first report, is “ ‘Liberty vs. Love’ is the Principal Contradiction of Human Culture unsolved throughout the human history”. The present study has investigated and extended it further. In short: Liberty is the First Principle of Human Culture, while Love is the Second. These Principles however contain various Contradictions, inside Liberty, inside Love, and between Liberty and Love. Both of these Principles are motivated by Ethics, which distinguishes Good from Bad deep inside the human heart. Thus the key to reduce/solve the ‘Liberty vs. Love’ Contradiction should be Ethics. However, Ethics is set and taught by society and evolving with history. Structural relationships of ‘Liberty, Love, and Ethics’ at the personal level are investigated.

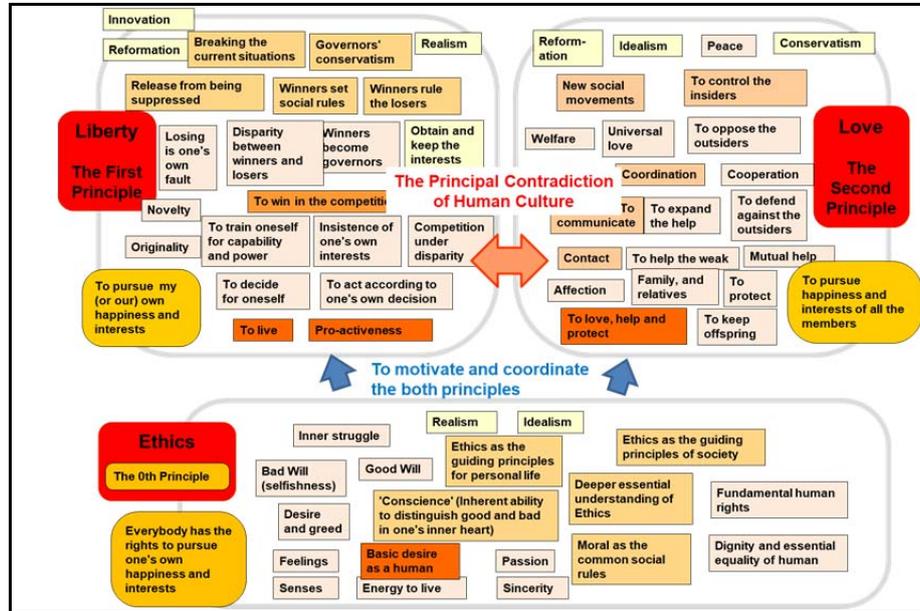
0. Introduction

This is the 2nd report of applying the TRIZ/CrePS Methodology [1] to social problems and of revealing the root contradictions underlying the Human Culture.

Last year [2], I applied TRIZ/CrePS to the problem of 'Poverty in the Japanese society'. Using the book "The Low-living Elderly" (Takanori Fujita, 2015), I visualized its logic. At the root of the poverty problem, there exist arguments, among people, blaming the poor themselves for their poverty, opposing mutual help and rescue by social welfare. I realized that the philosophy of Liberty does conflict with the philosophy of Love at the root. Then I obtained a hypothesis as follows:

Basic Hypothesis: 'Liberty vs. Love' is the Principal Contradiction of Human Culture and left unsolved in Human History. Liberty (and its extension) is the First Principle of Human Culture, while Love (and its expansion) the Second Principle. 'Liberty vs Love' is the Principal Contradiction of Human Culture (including the contradictions inside Liberty as well as inside Love). Both Liberty and Love are motivated by Ethics and may be coordinated by it.

Fig. 1. Structure of 'Liberty, Love, and Ethics' in the Principal Contradiction



I have found various causes making the Principal Contradiction so difficult to solve. Especially, the real and ideal situations of 'Liberty vs. Love' are not yet revealed well at the personal nor social levels.

In the present study, the Basic Hypothesis has been investigated further. The relationships among 'Liberty, Love, and Ethics' are investigated mainly at the personal level. They are studied in relation to the growth stages of human (i.e., baby and child, kid at schools, youth, middle, and elderly). Then, many keywords relevant to 'Liberty, Love, and Ethics' are collected and their relationships are investigated by use of a visual diagram, as shown in Fig. 1.

The diagram is helpful for revealing the structure of the relationships among 'Liberty, Love, and Ethics'. Thus the Basic Hypothesis has been revised and extended much as described in the following sections 1. through 5.

The present paper tries to figure out the main structure of the problem without referencing articles and thoughts by numerous people on individual details.

1. The 0th Principle of Human Culture: Ethics

(1) At the bottom of human heart, there exist the senses and feelings and also basic desires and greed. Ethics serves to distinguish Good from Bad deep inside

the human heart. Ethics is formed to be common understanding of guiding principles of personal and social lives for each society.

(2) Contents of Ethics, i.e., what are Good and what are Bad, are formed by societies more or less differently and evolve in the history of the Human Culture. Ethics is acquired after birth through various experiences and educations. Then, what is inherent and common for the human kind? I suppose 'the ability to distinguish Good from Bad in the depth of human heart' is inherent and common for human kind. I call the ability 'Conscience', after redefining its conventional meaning of 'Good Will in the human heart'. (Cf. Human babies of any birth origin have the ability of learning to speak a language of the raising family/community, wherever raised.)

(3) Human Culture has been based on Ethics and pursuing to extend Liberty and expand Love. The keys to coordinating and solving various conflicts/contradictions of 'Liberty vs. Love' are basically found in Ethics. Hence Ethics is regarded as 'The 0th Principle of Human Culture' in the present study.

(4) The conventional term 'Moral' has a strong nuance of 'Obedience' to social rules reflecting traditional hierarchical human relationships. However, the history of Human Culture has obtained the concept of 'Essential Equality of Humans'. The Fundamental Human Rights with this Equality concept is the core of thoughts on Ethics in the modern world.

(5) Essence of the 0th Principle: Ethics = 'Everybody has the rights to pursue one's own happiness and interests'.

2. The First Principle of Human Culture: Liberty

Human Culture takes 'Liberty' as its First Principle and aims at extending it further.

(1) Liberty = 'To decide for oneself, to act according to one's own decisions, and to live'. Every action makes different influences and results, and it sometimes succeeds while other times fails. Knowing such situations, one has to think, decide, and act as one thinks best. This way of thinking and acting at ones' best is supposed to result in maximizing the possibility of survival and newly developing the Human Culture.

(2) Liberty conflicts mutually. Since people want common things while the resources are limited, people's desires ('Liberty') inevitably collide, and there emerge competitions. Liberty aims at 'Winning in the Competitions'. One has to train oneself to get physical strengths, experiences, intellects, resources, etc. beforehand, and to think, decide, and act in proper ways. Winners obtain the things they wanted while Losers fail in obtaining them and may even lose their own lives. Survival of the stronger (with higher capabilities) in the Competitions is the natural rule in the world of living things.

(3) People's desires 'To Win in the Competitions' make the Competitions severe more and more. In the society with severe competitions, people apt to live in awkward relationships. As the results of repeated competitions, the gaps between the Winners and the Losers expand gradually and the disparity eventually become fixed more or less.

(4) The Social Winners who won the competitions repeatedly start to rule the whole Society. The Winners build new Social Rules which are favorable for them. The Winners try to maintain their own ruling positions. Thus, realism and conservatism prevail among the Winners (and also in the society).

(5) The Social Losers under the situations of being ruled and oppressed want to get released. Breaking the current unfavorable situations, and Reforming the current Social Rules become the targets of new movements in the name of Liberty, with the viewpoints of Idealism. Such Reformations have made new epochs in history.

(6) 'To decide and act for oneself' often generates epoch-making developments of Human Culture, especially in the fields of Science & Technology, Arts, etc.. It is the source of originality and novelty, resulting in Innovation. This fact is the basis that Liberty is regarded as the most important principle for developing Human Culture.

(7) Essence of the First Principle: Liberty = 'To pursue my (or our) own happiness and interests'.

3. The Second Principle of Human Culture: Love

Human Culture takes 'Love' as the Second Principle and aims at expanding it widely and universally.

(1) Love = 'to love one's children, one's family, and one's neighbors, and to help and protect them'. The prototype of Love is the affection by mothers to their children. It originates in the instinctive behavior, for human (just like other living things) to protect and raise their children, for leaving offspring. Expanding Love to one's family and neighbors, to everybody around, and further universally is a final target for Love as the Second Principle of Human Culture.

(2) Love helps the weak and the people in trouble. 'To help one another mutually and widely' is the original direction for Love as the Second Principle. For this purpose, Love wants to make contact and communicate with people, and to cooperate with people under mutual understanding.

(3) Love tries to coordinate people in order to seek Harmony among people in the group. When the members' insistence of Liberty is strong and different, achieving harmony becomes rather difficult. One solution is to conciliate the member who was insisting his Liberty so as to stay in cooperation in the group. Another solution is to approve the opinion of the insisting person and to ask other members for their understanding (or to conciliate them). In these two solutions,

Love is trying to find some compromise among the group members' Liberty for the sake of Harmony in the group.

(4) Love tries to find Cooperation of a diversity of Liberty while keeping their mutual respects. It is desirable that each member of the group understands the differences in members' opinions and interests, and cooperates in coordination as a group while keeping mutual respects. This is possible when the group members understand that the differences can compensate the weakness of individual members and can make the group better/stronger as a whole. In other cases when an opinion (Liberty) of some members is new and meaningful, such member(s) may be separated from the original group to form a new group independent but having a (loose) relationship with the original group.

(5) Another prototype of Love is related to the sexual reproduction of offspring. It has the nature mostly common as the Love mentioned above, but is specific in its exclusiveness in pairing. Wanting and choosing a partner is motivated much by instinctive desire and feelings, and often meets competitions. Finding good partners and living fruitful marriage lives are important tasks for individuals and for society.

(6) For the purpose of protecting the Family (or Insiders), Love tries to resist/defend against the Outsiders. Love tries to define the members to protect (Family, or Insiders), and to build a Wall around and to defend against Outsiders. For banding the Insiders together, Love sometimes tries to control the opinions and actions (Liberty) of the members, resulting in the standing positions of Conservatism and Realism.

(7) Love, trying to defend the Insiders, generates a Conflict at a higher social level. (E.g., Patriot Love of the people in one country and Patriot Love in the neighboring country caused wars often.)

(8) To Love everyone (i.e. Universalization of Love, Philanthropy) is the genuine goal of Love. Love aims at giving Help to all the people especially those in poor situations in the social disparity. Trials to change the society in such a direction are the movements of Reformation and Idealism. With the international world-wide scope, they become the movement for Peace in the World.

(9) Essence of the Second Principle: Love = 'To pursue happiness and interests of all the members'. The range recognized as 'all the members' (i.e., Family in a wider sense, Insiders) is crucial in this concept.

4. Conflicts and Contradictions between Liberty and Love

Conflicts/Contradictions emerging inside Liberty and inside Love are mentioned already. Here we discuss on Conflicts/Contradictions between Liberty (pursuing My/Our own happiness/interests) and Love (pursuing happiness/interests of All the members).

(1) A person has made up his Decisions and Actions (Liberty), but some other persons around try to stop him for the sake of Love. Persons around, especially in leading/protecting positions, think that such decisions and actions are wrong or risky. The person thinks "Even though my decisions and actions are risky, it is necessary to take the risk for the success in future". But the others advise "Stop them, or you would certainly fail and get a big damage". Which position is appropriate? It depends on the situations.

(2) Love asks for Mutual help and Cooperation for the sake of happiness and interests for all the members, but some member may refuse them because they do not match his/her own happiness/interests (Liberty). Since Liberty pursues one's own happiness/interests at maximum, this type of conflicts emerges very often.

(3) Liberty wants to finalize an issue by Competition or Fighting, but Love wants to settle the issue in a peaceful way without Fighting. It is natural for Liberty to finalize any issue by means of Competitions or Fighting to decide which wins. Love does not want Fighting but wants to achieve coordination, harmony, and peace among the members. For settling the issue, Love needs to be respected as a mediator and the Mediating solution must convince the both sides.

(4) Social Winners are going to build new social rules and to start ruling the society (Liberty). Love sometimes protests against the new social rules and the way of ruling, claiming that they would violate the happiness and interests of all or some of the members. Love sometimes starts a new movement with the claim.

(5) Social Losers sometimes raise a Reformation movement for the release from oppression (Liberty). Love usually agrees with the purpose of the movement but sometimes opposes against the measures and processes of the movement, because of their violation of happiness and interests of all or some of the members.

(6) Love wants to strengthen the bandage of the members, in order to defend against the threats and attacks from outside, and sometimes tries to control and restrict the opinions and behaviors (Liberty) of the members.

(7) When Love is sensitive in distinguishing the Insiders from outsiders and is narrow-minded, the people other than the Insiders are often excluded from the community of Insiders and hence their opinions and actions (Liberty) are not approved; this causes conflicts between the Insiders and the Outsiders.

5. The Role of Ethics to Liberty and Love

Ethics motivates both Liberty and Love, and coordinates them to reduce/solve the Principal Contradiction 'Liberty vs. Love'

(1) Even though the contents of Ethics (i.e., 'What are Good and What are Bad') differ depending on society and have been evolving with the history of Human Culture, Conscience (the ability to distinguish Good from Bad deeply in the heart) is supposed to be Inherent (and hence common) in the human kind. Hence, it is important that Ethics is understood properly in the heart of individuals and is prac-

ticed appropriately. This is crucial for Liberty and Love to be practiced by individuals and by society in their genuine spirits as the Principal Principles of Human Culture. Ethics is the key to reduce/resolve the conflicts/contradictions existing inside Liberty, inside Love, and between Liberty and Love.

(2) Insufficient understanding/practice of Ethics ruins the spirits and practices of Liberty. The followings are some of such examples.

Ruin the pro-activeness \Leftarrow Being passive, enervated, irresponsible, following others blindly, etc.

Ruin the originality, novelty \Leftarrow Following precedent cases, conventional, copying, imitation, etc.

Ruin the challenging \Leftarrow Seeking safety, shrinking, avoiding the responsibility, etc.

Make Competitions inappropriate \Leftarrow Backdoor admission, cunning, doping, judgement juggling, secret rule violation, corruption, bribery, etc.

Obtaining one's interests unfairly \Leftarrow Threatening, corruption, falsification, fraud, robbery, killing, etc.

Building new social rules improperly \Leftarrow Slavery, class system, restricted voting rights, colonial system, etc.

Misleading the Movement of Reformation \Leftarrow Terrorism, armed uprising (on the movement side), suppression, media control, etc. (on the ruler side)

(3) Hence for Liberty to be respected, the thoughts and actions in the name of Liberty should be in accordance with Ethics, namely they should come from not Bad Will but Good Will of the persons. Practical guideline for ensuring this point is to keep following the Fundamental Human Rights, especially Concept of 'Essential equality', in the claim of Liberty and in the field of Competition. It is important to understand and practice 'Essential Equality as a human', instead of 'Uninformed Equality' and of 'Obedience in traditional class system'.

(4) Insufficient understanding of Ethics ruins the spirits and practices of Love.

Ruins the affection \Leftarrow Indifference, dislike, cruelty, abusive treatment, etc.

Ruins the help \Leftarrow Neglect, disregard, etc.

Ruins the protection \Leftarrow Disregard, closing the eyes, etc.

Ruins the coordination \Leftarrow Non-cooperation, lack of understanding, cold heart, selfishness, insistence, rejection, etc.

(5) Hence Ethics is the foundation of Love. Love is based on the tender heart (an aspect of Ethics) of everybody. With such a tender heart, one can help, cooperate, and coordinate with others. With a tender heart, one may avoid claiming selfish Liberty and hence reduce the factors causing the conflicts between Liberty and Love. Even though Love has its general philosophy to spread it widely and universally, its sense of specifying the Insider members forms big barriers against widening of Love. It is important to have the Ethics based on the concept of 'Essential Equality as a human', and to communicate with people widely for understanding the history and current situations of the society and the world.

(6) One more point we should note particularly is the fact that Greed of human, especially the desire for money, is endless. In the current world, money is

the biggest factor for distinguishing the Social Winners. The rich people are the Social Winners and the current social system is made favorable for them. That is the capitalism economy and the capitalism social system. The capitalism social system has generated big disparity and various serious problems in Japan and in the world. We should make efforts for reforming the social system in this point to incorporate the redistribution of wealth more widely. This is the current important issue of Liberty, the issue of Love, and the issue of Ethics as well.

Conclusion

The present study investigated further the Basic Hypothesis of 'Liberty vs. Love' as the Principal Contradiction of Human Culture and extended and strengthened it. Especially the structure among 'Liberty, Love and Ethics' has been studied at the individual personal level. Various forms of contradiction inside Liberty, inside Love, and between Liberty and Love are considered and Ethics is regarded as the fundamental key to reduce/solve such contradictions. It is noted that Ethics differs depending on society and evolves in history, but the concept of 'Essential Equality as a human' is recently understood to be the core of Ethics. Following the Fundamental Human Rights is revealed to be the practical guiding principle for reducing/solving problems of Principal Contradictions. The issue will be investigated further, at the group/organization level next.

The whole investigation reported here has been guided by the TRIZ/CrePS methodology [1]. Recognizing a problem in the Real World, defining the problem to be analyzed in the Thinking World, and understanding the present system and the ideal system (of the problem) have been carried out so far to some extent. Generating solution ideas and building conceptual solutions (in the Thinking World), and implementing solutions (in the Real World) need to be carried out as big tasks in future. Systems thinking and contradiction philosophy in TRIZ/CrePS are especially useful for investigating this fundamental and complex social problem.

References:

1. Nakagawa T (2016) CrePS (General Methodology of Creative Problem Solving) beyond TRIZ: What, Why, and How?, TRIZCON2016 held by Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies, Mar. 2-5, 2016, New Orleans, USA; THPJ, Jun. 20, 2016.
2. Nakagawa T (2016) TRIZ/CrePS Approach to the Social Problems of Poverty: 'Liberty vs. Love' Is Found the Principal Contradiction of the Human Culture, ETRIA TRIZ Future Conference, Oct. 24-27, 2016, Wroclaw, Poland; THPJ, Nov. 12, 2016

Note: THPJ: TRIZ Home Page in Japan, URL= <http://www.osaka-gu.ac.jp/php/nakagawa/TRIZ/eTRIZ/>