Knowledge Acquisition to Acquiring Power

A review on Jeffrey L. Bartilet's *Reading a Foucault, Discourse and the Call for Reflexivity*

Jeffrey L. Bartilet’s “Reading Foucault, Discourse and the Call for Reflexivity” frames to question our understanding about knowledge and power. How can one acquire power and knowledge? And how can one utilize such knowledge to power and power to knowledge? It even recalls the popular line of the late Ernie Baron, famous journalist and IQ wiz, in a wider perspective: “Kung walang knowledge, walang power” (If you have no knowledge you won’t acquire power).

Bartilet offered diverse discussion about these two ideas (knowledge and power) by considering the points raised by Foucault that persuaded me to link the acquisition of knowledge by learning from school or from our experience that correlates to power.

Power does not correlate with negative implications instead it permits one to obtain authority and to be credible enough to speak of something related to a certain thing as subject of inquiry. Thus, having such power gives a person an involvement in a certain discourse. In the article, a medical practitioner was cited as an example. The said practitioner who studied medicine for several years and eventually earned licence is credible enough to discuss (a discourse) about health issues and problems of the patient. The same logic extends with the lawyer who is the only person reliable to interrogate in a court. These two mentioned examples acquired power because they earned their credibility as manifested by law or by any accredited institutions of a certain related field. Those opportunities to do such manifest their powers.