Preface

Conducting a research-based thesis is a matter of interest with both its pains and joys. This characteristic becomes more tangible when the discipline referred to in the thesis is new. Such novelty is the cause of the emergence of controversial views, which, in their own turn, give birth to contradictory definitions of different terms and concept. The question of Friedrich Nietzsche’s framework of thought, on one hand, and its consequent influences, on the other hand, has ever been controversial since the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Hence, although the present thesis is a study project on the thought of Friedrich Nietzsche, it elaborates on the characteristics of a major branch of contemporary philosophy and theory, known as Post-Structuralism, and also provides a practical reading of one of the classical works of philosophy, Plato’s *The Republic*, based on such applied theories. That is why the title of the thesis, *The Manifestation of the Thought of Friedrich Nietzsche in Post-Structuralism*, is followed by the subtitle, *From Critical Philosophy to Applied Theories*.

The rationale for undertaking such a research on Nietzsche’s framework of thought is that his philosophy offers the most radical and harshest criticism among the philosophical works of the modern period. Moreover, the style, tone, and manner of writing in his works as well as his mode of argumentation are precisely different from and sometimes in contradiction with the other philosophical works produced in that era. On the other hand, the rationale for elaboration on Post-Structuralism in the
present thesis is that it has had an inevitable role in the development of
the other fields of the Human Sciences in the recent decades. And finally,
the rationale for choosing a work by Plato to be practically read in the
present study is that it is almost agreed by every one, and especially by
Nietzsche and Post-Structuralist thinkers, as shown in the thesis, that
Plato was one of the first great philosophers whose mark is felt not only
in the history of the western philosophy but also in the moral and cultural
systems of a given western society.

One of the main objectives behind this study is to show how
Nietzsche’s critical philosophy, especially in his last works, influenced
the applied theories presented by Post-Structuralist thinkers. Thus, after
discussing Nietzsche’s critique on Christianity, Socrates, and Modernity,
the thesis seeks to demonstrate Post-Structuralist deconstruction of
western metaphysics on one hand and its demonstration of the
mechanism and function of Modernity discourses on the other hand.
Accordingly, the Post-Structuralist theories applied in rejecting western
metaphysics and Modernity are ultimately revealed to have roots in
Nietzsche’s critical philosophy.

Therefore, exploring the transformation of a critical philosophy into an
applied theory is one of the main objectives of the present study.
Furthermore, arguing for the applicability of a Post-Structuralist theory in
reading a given philosophical work, *The Republic*, is the other major
objective of the present research. Therefore, the thesis first discusses
Nietzsche’s criticism of Socrates that is followed, later on, by the Post-
Structuralist deconstruction of western tradition of philosophy.

Thus, the present thesis, in developing a number of its arguments,
focuses on those bases of western philosophy that were first established
and presented by Christianity and Socrates, later on radically criticized by Nietzsche, and finally theoretically deconstructed by Post-Structuralist philosophy. It should be noted that such Post-Structuralist theories are applied in different fields of Human Sciences. On the other hand, the philosophy of Modernity, its characteristics, and its discourses constitute another part of the scope of the thesis that, as demonstrated in the thesis, were first criticized by Nietzsche and later on theoretically explored by some of the Post-Structuralist thinkers.

Thus, the present thesis provides a journey that stops and thinks critically in three major stations, which are Plato, Nietzsche and Post-Structuralism. There are also some other stations such as the onset of Christianity and modernity throughout the thesis. However, Nietzsche’s criticism of Plato and his influence on Post-Structuralism on one hand, and a Post-Structuralist reading of Plato on the other hand have been focused and they constitute the main argument of the thesis.

After reading the present study, one might come to this conclusion that it aims at arguing this proposition that whatever Nietzsche presented philosophically in this regard influenced what some Post-Structuralist thinkers have attempted to do theoretically. Therefore, the argument of the thesis is, first of all, based on the original works by both Nietzsche and the referred Post-Structuralist thinkers, Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault. Moreover, attention has been paid to quote original and sophisticated critics and writers, and, at the same time, to avoid making use of second hand and simplified readers.

The methodology of developing the argument of the thesis is based on following three main stages in each chapter, except for the last chapter. First, the discussions at the beginning of each chapter are supported by a
literature review of the mentioned discussion. That is to say that before entering the main argument each chapter provides the reader with both a short introductory note and a long discussion on the literature review of the subject under discussion with attention to the backgrounds, main principles and influences.

The second stage is the analysis of the main argument. The sources for the argument here, unlike the first stage, are based on the original works of the referred philosophers. This stage is, in other words, an attempt to present both the philosophy under discussion and the argument under consideration in a systematic and academic way.

The third methodological stage of the development of the argument is itself divided into two parts. First, the reader is provided with a conclusion of the argument presented in that chapter. Secondly, the final conclusion is presented that is based on the previous discussions and arguments. That is why the last chapter of the thesis, chapter five, does not follow the methodology of chapters one to four. The reason is that the last chapter focuses only on presenting the final conclusion of the previous discussions.
Thesis Questions

I. Preliminary Questions

1. What is Nietzsche’s concept of man and how is it relevant to his criticism of Christianity?
2. What is Nietzsche’s criticism of Arthur Schopenhauer’s concept of will and how does it pave the way for the emergence of Nietzsche’s the Anti-Christ figure?
3. How does Nietzsche criticize Modernity and Socrates?
4. What is the main philosophical theory of Post-Structuralism?
5. Who are the main figures of Post-Structuralism and what is their contribution to and influence on Human Sciences?

II. Main Questions

1. How does Nietzsche’s criticism of Christ/Anti-Christ dual pair influence Derrida’s Post-Structuralist theories applied in the reversal of binary oppositions?
2. How does Nietzsche’s criticism of the philosophy of Modernity influence Foucault’s theories on the mechanism of modernity discourses?
3. How is Nietzsche’s critical philosophy transformed into Post-Structuralist applied theories?
4. Is it possible to apply a Post-Structuralist theory on a Philosophical work in a way that is similar to and based on Nietzsche’s mode of criticism?