1) Petri Nurmi, 181255

My master’s dissertation will be about development co-operation between Finland and Namibia from 1985 to 1990. I intend to focus on how development co-operation is perceived as either solving or perhaps worsening the economic inequalities between the citizens of Namibia. As for my sources I use the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission’s official documents and the magazine they publish in addition to The Namibian, which is a local newspaper.

Considering my dissertation’s main issues, the first relation I find useful is the political relation for its strategies for coming to terms with historical taboos and historical traumas.

- ”Coming to terms with historical taboos and historical traumas”

- On the one hand attempting to “forget” what SWAPO did

- Both mythical and falsification types of repression are seen in falsifying the actions of SWAPO before the end of the war against South Africa

- On the other hand attempting to forgive apartheid and reunifying the people

- Both of the above in recent memory (if not almost still ongoing), thus trauma, not taboo?

- In apartheid’s case perhaps cognitive? Definitely attempts at forgetting and forgiving in order to move past the problem and work on the future

Secondly, the moral relation is definitely relevant to my subject since it raises risks which I might have unknowingly fallen for had I not considered them beforehand.

- Critical approach

- Trying to learn from the mistakes of the past but without disregarding the successes

- Is development co-operation helpful? If not, what went wrong? Could it be fixed?

- Definitely the risk of judging the past (apartheid being the main example)

- Contemporary criticism as my defense of criticizing the “mistakes” of the past

- Also definitely the risk of trying to create a link between the past and the present by making the past useful in the present situation

- Do I consider myself worthy of such a daunting task?

- Then again, definitely not falling for the risk of irony or cynicism – though it may not have worked in the past, the objective is to \*learn\* from the past mistakes and, from that, create a future more successful

- Definitely not dwelling on the past or feeling like “only an epigone”

Thirdly, I do not think I could escape reflecting upon the limitations presented in the aesthetic relation when working with sources in the form of language.

- Since one of my primary sources is a local newspaper, it is obviously impossible to avoid a biased perspective on everything discussed

- Though the reporters might even consider themselves a neutral party, there will definitely be “blind spots” in their reporting

- Even if the articles don’t include a single factual mistake, the point of view from which they are written, their discourse, is probably fairly one-sided

- On the other hand, all written sources share at least the problem of the limit of languages

- Apart from using multiple sources, it seems to be a problem which could be avoided no matter which sources I would use

- Of course I have to question my own writing at least as much as those of the texts I use as sources

- Not only considering whether or not the thesis I will make based on them is factually correct but also consider the point of view from which I consider the problem