Georg Lukács, “The phenomenon [appearance] of reification”

part I of
“Reification and the consciousness of the proletariat”

central essay in Lukács’s book
History and Class Consciousness (1923)

dialectic of subject and object:
reciprocal relation
mutual mediation

(subject mediates the object — object mediates the subject)
thing-in-itself (Kant)

in bourgeois social relations becomes
theoretical + practical

subject — object

subjectification — objectification
subjectivation — objectivation

in capitalist disintegration reverts to

reification
(thing-ification)

“reified consciousness” “contemplation”

“thing-like subjectivity” “phantom-like objectivity”

social relations
relations to:
• others
• Nature
• oneself