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Norms rather than score

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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Piotr Sztompka (2010) asked a question whether a Polish sociology exists or there is only one – global – sociology. It may be argued, however, this is a question of the extent of interaction and information circulation. According to the concept by I. Wallerstein (1984), the globalisation results in a polarisation between the core, semi-periphery, periphery, and the external arena. Global, national, regional, and local sociologies therefore exist as well as respective sociologists. The relations between the core and periphery are ones of domination and subordination. The developmental dependence of the periphery on the core is one result of this pattern. It is the core that superimposes norms which must be accepted by the periphery if the latter wishes to avoid marginalisation.

Theoretical works and empirical analyses underlain by solid theoretical base are the scientific norm of the global sociology while narrow empirical works are a practice of the regional sociology, and even purely descriptive works dominate in the local sociology. This phenomenon can be interpreted in terms of structural violence in which institutions from another phase of development are superimposed (Staniszkis 2010). This applies both to the structural violence of the core over the periphery and that within the periphery and, especially, the external arena, in which the modernising and pro-developmental tendencies are muted by the locally dominated

institutions.

Global, national, regional, and local students can be distinguished among Polish sociologies and other social scientists. Generally, however, Polish sociology, social sciences, and Poland as a country are located in the semi-periphery of the world system. The communal values with the core are felt as one result of this development while norms, interests, and institutions typical for the periphery dominate. A discussion of the desirable relations between the acceptance of the norms of the 'world science', i.e. those of the core, on the one hand, and a preservation of the national culture and its peculiarity, on the other, is an important element of this situation. In terms of developmental perspectives, it is a dilemma between the dependent and independent development. This discussion applies to the model of making social sciences in Poland and to their institutional organisation.

The polarisation of the world system under globalisation sets a not new question about the relations between the polarisation and social justice and its spatial dimension (Harvey 1973). It may be argued that the growing disparities between the core and periphery are unjust because they diminish chances of the periphery to smooth the disparities, even though the such understood notion of justice is based on a specific, i.e. egalitarian, axio-normative system. English is the language of communication in contemporary science, the fact that is disadvantageous for Poland (Rykiel 2009) and generally unjust – not merely in the indicated above ethic, but also economic, categories, for it provides measurable advantages to English-speaking countries (Żelazny 2010). The mediaeval system of European universities, with Latin as the language of instruction, seem to have been more just as it was nobody's mother tongue even though Latin was the language of intercommunication within the Romance core of the then Europe.

In order to be considered in contemporary science it is necessary to be visible in the core; in order to be visible there, three conditions should be met, i.e. (1) to publish in English, (2) in journals recognised in the core, (3) and, importantly, to accept the norms of the core. The Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, identifying

the developmental challenges of Polish science as a necessity to join the core of the world science, introduced, instead of the prevailing discretionary assessment, a parametric system of assessment of institutions and scientists, in which two former – formal – conditions were emphasised while the most important, third, was ignored. This resulted in considerable doubts within social and humanist sciences, in which a question was raised of the role of the national culture and culture-creating role of universities in the globalising world (Jałowicki 2009). This question can be reduced to one of the rightness of the acceptance of the model of dependent development in Polish science, i.e. the one that had been accepted in the economy two decades earlier. A dilemma of a semi-peripheral country is, however, to choose between the model of dependent development, including all its negative results, and the model of independent development, which marginalised Polish science and is likely not only to stabilise but even to deepen the marginalisation (Rykiel 2009).

The axio-normative element of the system of science, underestimated by the Ministry, seems an important condition to extricate Polish science from the deepening semi-peripherisation. Instead emphasising the, doubtful in cases, English language of the preferred publications, a priority should be given to the norms of the ‘world’ science, i.e. the ones of the core. The following could be included to the norms: (1) publicity of the criteria of the assessment of publications, (2) double anonymity of scientific reviews, (3) edition of the published texts, (4) promoting of scientific critique by the recognition book reviews as an important part of scientific output, (5) a free access to scientific publications, and (6) the assessment of the value of scientific publications on the ground of their innovation rather than size.

This is these norms that are a base of the functioning of the *Przestrzeń Społeczna* (*Social Space*) journal, the initial issue of which is being opened. To make science on a suitable level by application the norms of the world science and not be subjected to structural violence is a strategic goal of this journal. In this context, the maximisation of scores granted by the Ministry according to the prevailing criteria, which are hoped to will have adjust some time to the normative rather than purely formal layer of the world science, is not a strategic goal of this journal. Particularly, the authors and

readership are given (1) a modern form of the presentation of and access to publications, (2) promoted discussion and a thorough scientific critique, (3) lingual correctness of texts, and (4) its conciseness even if it might be inconsistent with the Ministry's criteria of the assessment of the scientific status of text on the ground of their size. The authors are free to define the proportion between the English and Polish languages of their publications.

By no means it is to say that the Editor will ignore possibilities, following the prevailing procedures, to gain as high the Ministry's score as possible, even though, as was already pointed to, the very score is not the strategic goal of this journal.

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