
Summaries

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BARBARA TUCHAŃSKA

EXPLICATION PROBLEM IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIOLOGY

Scientific explication is conceptualized in the contemporary methodology by means of models proposed by C.G. Hempel. They are built in logical-syntactical categories and they unveil—according to their creator and adherents—the logic of scientific explication. The assumptions on which these models are based (I am presenting them in Part Two of the article) were many a time an object of criticism and indeed it seems that their acceptance makes it impossible to reconstruct scientific explication as a certain cognitive procedure. What is more, although it sounds paradoxically, Hempel's models seem to be ill-adjusted to the contemporary post-Popperian methodology, because the central concept of this methodology is a concept of scientific knowledge and not a category of a scientific proposition. However, it is also here that the next paradox appears—it is difficult to seek extralogical conceptualization of scientific knowledge in this methodology. Accordingly, the task of conceptualization of explication as a knowledge formative operation continues to be open. In the third part of the article, there is briefly outlined such an *epistemological* (and not logical or methodological) concept of explication based on the sociologically understood concept of scientific knowledge, on the concept of cognition as a social phenomenon and on the concept of cognitive needs written into the context of interactions between subjects acquiring knowledge and knowledge itself. Such an approach to explication allows to disclose its historicity and disciplinary differentiation, or shortly speaking – the fact that a contextual aspect of explication cannot be separated from its logical, formal aspect.

JACEK GANOWICZ

HERMENEUTIC FOUNDATIONS OF
MAX WEBER'S UNDERSTANDING SOCIOLOGY

The aim of the article is to show that the understanding sociology is not the only theoretical perspective, which was proposed and applied by Max Weber as a tool of the sociological-historical analysis. Apart from the understanding sociology, Weber distinguished the understanding psychology—a separate theoretical option making reference to hermeneutics. The distinction between the understanding sociology and the understanding psychology can be found in his article entitled *On some categories of the understanding sociology*, which was completely neglected by a vast majority of Weber's interpreters despite his own commentary in *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft*, where he drew attention to its significance.

Practical application of hermeneutics by Weber can be found for the first time in his essay about the town (*Die Stadt*) being an attempt at going beyond the stance accepted in his

essay entitled *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. The work about protestant ethic did not satisfy Weber's ambitions to show the causes of the specific development way of the Western civilization. In his essay about the town he points out that the beginnings of formation of the European middle class – a group deciding about formation of capitalism – were conditioned by a unique assumption of the Christian Universalism and by specific economic interests of town dwellers in the late Middle Ages.

The commentary to the concept of explanation adopted in *Die Stadt* is to be found in the above mentioned article about certain categories of the understanding sociology. Apart from the understanding sociology – static analysis of social behaviours and institutions based on the assumption about unchangeability of disposable characteristics of individuals: their values of instrumental aspirations, Weber distinguishes the understanding psychology referring directly to Nietzsche and the historical materialism. The understanding psychology serves the analysis of a social change dynamics, moments of shaping new rules of rationality of behaviours and ways in which the world is perceived connected with these rules. It is at such moments that the assumption about interrelationship of motives and values entirely independent in the perspective of the understanding sociology such as e.g. economic interests and religious values assumes a cognitive value. The analysis of this type is the focus of the understanding psychology or Weber's interpretation of hermeneutics making reference to Nietzsche, Marx, and implicitly to Hegel and Dilthey.

PAWEŁ B. SZTABIŃSKI

MATERIAL SITUATION. PROPOSITION OF CONCEPT

One of elements of a research concept are establishments concerning the conceptual apparatus. The article deals with problems connected with defining the concepts characterizing the economic situation. Against the background of concepts used in sociology and cognate concepts used in economics (level of life, living conditions, etc.) and functioning in "colloquial" awareness, the author has presented a proposal of a concept called "material situation" by him, which may constitute a basis of analyses of comparative sociological studies. When reconstructing this concept, the author refers to perception of a situation as some kind of a system, in which a basic role is played by needs being an impulse for undertaking economic activity by an individual, and a final goal of this activity. The concept of material situation has been defined as a possibility (when we take into account the outlays made to satisfy needs) and a degree (when we take into account the effects) of satisfaction of common and socially accepted consumer needs by goods and services provided against payment or having their market money value.

TOMASZ MARUSZEWSKI

COMMON SENSE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES: NORM OF BEHAVIOUR, OBJECT OF STUDIES

The article is devoted to analysis of relationships between the common sense and cognitive procedures applied in psychological sciences. Extreme standpoints in this matter represented by continualism and discontinualism seem to be hardly reconcilable. Instead of

searching for compromise solutions, the author proposes the undertaking of empirical studies and, thus, resignation from an exclusive use of *ex post* method by the philosophy of science. There are discussed preliminary conditions of undertaking such studies, which should encompass, on the one hand, professional researchers and, on the other hand – amateur researchers. These studies should observe the same rules which are binding in empirical disciplines including comparability of conditions in which both groups are analyzed, formulation of hypotheses on the basis of a certain theoretical conception, etc. It is suggested that the impact of the common sense on a given discipline is dependent on the degree of its methodological development. There are presented initial proposals of studies on this impact (and also on the feedback impact of science on the common sense).

BOLESŁAW SUCHOCKI
JERZY WALKOWIAK

THEORY–INDICES–RESEARCH PROCEDURE

The article presents proposition of the research procedure with utilization of indices. The model of procedure is analyzed against the background of a roughly outlined role of indices in connecting the empirical base with the sociological theory, the concept of index theory and the index strategy of justifying theories.

Assuming that an index is an element of a methodological construct, which apart from the index contains also an indicatum and an assertion indicating existence of relationships between factors fulfilling functions of an index and an indicatum, the authors propose a model–built in connection with the empirical theory–which is composed of four main stages of procedure: 1) distinguishing the classes of abstraction of an indictum and an index, and determining their qualitative and quantitative representations against the background of a definite theory of a phenomenon or a process; 2) searching for and selecting assertions indicating existence of relationships between factors, which may fulfill an indicative function; 3) analyzing applicability of these assertions for a definite set of studied objects (in a given time and environment); 4) indicative inference and control of results of mediated measurement.

The first stage of the research procedure should provide the following information: 1) what number of classes can be distinguished in the magnitude of an index, what types of conceptualization of an indicatum and specification of an index find their confirmation in the literature of the subject; 2) what types of magnitudes can be found in applicable constructs; 3) what is the character of these magnitudes and 4) are these simple or derivative magnitudes.

The effect of the second stage of the procedure should be obtaining data indispensable to answer: what is the character of the relationship, what is its shape, direction, or whether this relationship is homogeneous, historical; if it is depicted by a statistical correlation, then it must be also answered whether it is unconditional (when fulfilling what assumptions), what is its statistical picture, which equivocal quasi-function determines best principles of assigning mathematical magnitudes (non-nominal) of an index and of a picture of an indicatum to representations, and finally–deciding whether the analyzed relationship creates prospects of sufficient effectiveness of the indicative construct.

The third stage should allow to determine whether the relationship, which is to be a basis of the construct, occurs also in a different time or space than those in which it was originally asserted–whether it also occurs in relation to a set of objects, which are to be submitted to analysis.

The procedure is crowned by the indicative inference and control of results. The activities at this stage aim at determining—on the basis of belonging to any of classes of an index—the belonging of an object to one of classes of an indicatum (classification is performed by means of inference designs implied by the construct), as well as testing and evaluating the validity of a performed substitute measurement, locating and removing causes of errors in results of the substitute measurement.

JERZY BRZEZIŃSKI

EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF CHANGES –
METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF APPLYING
THE PRETEST OF EXOGENOUS VARIABLE

The article discusses the basic methodological problems connected with application of the pretest of exogenous variable Y in the experimental study of changes. The author justifies first the necessity of using initial and final measurements of an exogenous variable i.e. “before” (pretest) and “after” (posttest) introducing an experimental manipulation, for evaluation of the magnitude of change caused by a given endogenous variable X. Next, it is pointed out that the pretest of the variable Y may be a source of artifacts and a factor disturbing the external validity and the internal validity of an experimental study. There are also discussed ways of preventing these disturbances. This is followed by presentation of possible comparisons in which scores of the pretest Y occur and which can be utilized by the researcher as indices of a change (either individual or group). Special attention has been paid to complex scores i.e. differential scores and residual scores. In the author’s opinion, Solomon’s four-groups design is the most appropriate design of experimental studies enabling a full control of an effect of the pretest Y. There are recommended two equivalent methods of statistical analysis of data obtained from a study conducted according to Solomon’s design: a) application of the twofactor analysis of variance ANOVA combined with the analysis of variance components, and b) application of the multiple linear regression analysis, nonadditivity model. The author discusses also a possibility of using the model of analysis of covariance ANCOVA in the case when the researcher has not equalized the compared groups with result to scores of the pretest Y. The article ends with discussion on the problem of increasing effectiveness of experimental studies through increasing the number of posttests Y.

ANDRZEJ P. WEJLAND

INTERROGATIVE STUDIES ON PRESTIGE OF OCCUPATIONS.
ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

The article deals with analysis of measurement of data obtained from individual respondents using the ranking or comparison in pairs of two basic interrogative procedures serving determination of the ranking in a set of occupations with regard to prestige. There are presented possibilities of mathematical description of individual rankings, with a special attention being paid to situations when evaluations of prestige carried by particular occupations, obtained from different respondents, do not meet the condition of transitivity. The author shows what results can be yielded by application of simple and complex

methods of measurement by ranking for intransitive matrices of occupations ranks. The present analysis is a continuation of analyses started in the article on *Interrogative Studies on Prestige of Occupations, Conceptual Assumptions and Basic Procedures* published in "Przegląd Socjologiczny", 1969, vol. XXXI/1, pp. 33-45.

ANTONI SULEK

RELIABILITY OF SOURCES AND RELIABILITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

The article discusses social determinants of reliability of sources and reliability of official data. The author also formulates rules useful for evaluation of data.

Official data characterizing the environment of an institution are collected in the course of interaction between an institution's functionaries and informers from its environment. Behaviour of informers is affected by social values, to which they refer their situation and behaviour. If a registering institution is also evaluated on the basis of data, then the interests of this institution may cause deformation of data in a direction compatible with its interests.

Reliability of official data describing the activity of an institution depends on its structure. The data produced in institutions, in which there exist strong internal conflicts and in which the data are not collected by units independent of a unit which they concern, are especially exposed to deformations.

PAWEŁ DANIŁOWICZ

EXTERNAL VERIFICATION OF SOCIOLOGICAL DATA PROBLEM OF VERIFYING INFORMATION

Problems of empirical verification of sociological data are analyzed in this article against the background of the verification concept elaborated by J. Lutyński. This concept constitutes a theoretical framework and, simultaneously, a starting point for the entire analysis presented here. Besides reconstruction of these fragments of the concept which are connected with the so-called external verification, we also perform a critical evaluation of certain assumptions on which this procedure is based. We proceed from an assumption that the value of verification – determined by the reasoning characteristic for the external verification – is largely affected by the value of verifying information. That is why, in the further part of our analysis, we focus our attention on ways of justifying reliability of such type of information. While discussing it we refer to an example taken from the conducted verification studies, in which two ways of justifying the verifying information have been applied.

KRYSTYNA LUTYŃSKA

ANALYSIS OF REFUSALS IN THE POLISH QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEYS IN THE YEARS 1982 – 1985

Since 1982 we have been observing in Poland a considerable increase in the number of refusals to grant questionnaire interviews, which sometimes reaches a high 50 percent. This phenomenon arouses anxiety, because in the case when the number of refusals and, gene-

rally, the number of „units inaccessible for surveys” are very big and surveys suffer from a systematic error, there may be distorted a random representative sample in a deliberate manner. The problem of the increasing number of refusals was analyzed on the basis of the data from 60 surveys carried out in Poland between 1982 and 1985 by different institutions. It has been found that there exist very big differences in percentage shares of refusals according to: period of time, region and town in which a given survey was conducted, sponsor i.e. institution making a given survey, subject of surveys, interviewers and respondents. There have been formulated several hypotheses explaining psycho-social reasons behind increase in the number of refusals. A refusal may be an expression of: 1) indifference in relation to sociological studies connected with people's restricted interest to the family life; 2) direct reaction to some general event: political or economic; 3) unwillingness towards sociological studies connected with perceiving them as a way of “wielding power over people”; 4) growing distrust in anonymity of studies; 5) lost expectations that the studies may “change something for the better”; 6) critical attitude to findings of sociological studies utilized by mass media; 7) changes in social awareness of some people resulting from the fact that in the period following 1981 people realized that each man has a right to choose and refuse.

FRANCISZEK SZTABIŃSKI

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY AND MAIL SURVEY ANALYSIS OF PROCESSES OF OBTAINING INFORMATION AND THEIR RESULTS

The article is devoted to a comparative evaluation of the processes of obtaining information by means of questionnaire and mail surveys and their results. The first part of the article contains a short review of the methodological literature, while its second part analyzes materials provided by the survey concerning opinions of Lodz inhabitants about the students' strike in 1981.

While analyzing the processes of obtaining information, there were taken into account their two aspects, and namely: a) processes of contacting people in connection with these two kinds of surveys, and b) processes of communicating in connection with these techniques. Also two aspects were taken into consideration during analysis of results provided by the processes of obtaining information i.e. a) significance of obtained responses, and b) extensiveness of responses in questionnaire and mail surveys.

The comparative analyses conducted in such a way make it possible to determine the eventual “benefits” and “losses” connected with application of the questionnaire survey and the mail survey. The article does not discuss, of course, all the possible problems but only those which seem to be most significant from the researcher's point of view, i.e. quantitative and qualitative evaluation of obtained materials.