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ijircce@gmail.com



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Philosophy and Social Sciences

VALIEV B.N

Candidate of Philosophical Sciences, Associate Professor, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

ANNOTATION: The philosophy of the social sciences is a branch of philosophy that thematizes and explores the relationship between philosophy and the social sciences. The main functions of the philosophy of the social sciences are the development of social ontology, the methodology of the social sciences, and the metatheory of the social sciences.

KEYWORDS: philosophical concepts, social sciences, socio-scientific theories, metatheoretical, modern philosophy, autonomous, ontological, theoretical constructions.

I. INTRODUCTION

The philosophy of the social sciences in its most general form is a problematization and exploration of the relationship between philosophy and social sciences.

This accepted designation is widely used for how the philosophy of the social sciences can also appear in the form relatively autonomous philosophical discipline, and in the form development of relevant issues in the context of diverse different in their disciplinary affiliation philosophical concepts, and in the form of specific segments or aspects object research or methodological theories in co-social sciences.

II. METHODS OF LITERATURE

The increased attention to the problems of social ontology in recent years is largely due to the project of John Searle to develop a "general theory of social ontology". J. Searle believes that there is a need for a new field of philosophy, which could be called the "philosophy of society", just as G. Frege, B. Russell, L. Wittgenstein and others invented the philosophy of language in the late XIX - early XX century.

J. Searle proceeds from the premise that since we live in the same world, we must be able to accurately explain how the different parts relate to each other in a coherent whole. In his works, J. Searle seeks to explain how mentality (mind), language and social reality function and how they form a coherent whole. It should be shown that we live in one world, and not in two or three - physical, mental and cultural.

III. RESULTS

Thus, speaking of the philosophy of the social sciences, we have we also deal with philosophical constructions in the generally accepted sense words, and with certain conceptualizations within the framework of social science. Such conceptualizations can legitimately be attributed to the philosophy of the social sciences if they solve problems that actually relate to its sphere both in content and in the level of universality consideration.

For the purposes of social and scientific knowledge, it is possible to distinguish several main forms of use of philosophy. It is also legitimate to qualify such forms as basic tasks of the philosophy of the social sciences. These tasks set the main directions works of modern philosophy of the social sciences.

The first block of tasks can be defined as "ontological", the second includes various uses of philosophy social sciences for methodological purposes, and the third is actually a metatheoretical study of socio-scientific theories, in the process of which the philosophy of the social sciences is actually carries out the function of the philosophy of science or the theory of science in relation to the sphere of social and scientific knowledge.

The object area of the philosophy of the social sciences includes, thus, efforts aimed at clarifying the general nature of social reality as an object-objective spheres of social theory and establish which categories of phenomena are present in an irreducible way in the social world ("Block of ontological tasks"). Another block of tasks is focused on determining which method allows you to most adequately comprehend the functioning of the social world.

The third is focused on solving a complex of metatheoretical problems of social and scientific knowledge associated with the traditional theory of science with a desire to establish the status of theoretical constructions of social and scientific knowledge, to clarify what provides and guarantees the validity of claims to theoretical knowledge about the investigated social world.

Each of these problem areas intersects in a variety of ways with certain sections of philosophy and the corresponding philosophical disciplines. For example, what is commonly called the “ontology of social sciences”, the task of which is a general “ontological” definition of the subject sphere of social sciences, cannot but interact with philosophical ontology at all. The problem of social agency turns out to be connected in modern philosophy with philosophical and anthropological problems, including, for example, with problems philosophy of consciousness, etc. Method questions are linked to a number of components of philosophical epistemology. In general, it is about considering the results of the work of various sections philosophy in a very definite perspective - the perspective of identifying and comprehending those components of these results, which can be used for the purposes of social and scientific knowledge.

The philosophy of the social sciences actually takes on a “mediating” function in the relationship between philosophy and the social sciences. It, as it were, “unfolds” various sections and disciplines of philosophy towards the latter. Diverse philosophical developments are considered in the perspective of the possibilities of their use for the purposes of social and scientific knowledge, endowed with an instrumental function in relation to the social sciences.

The main tasks and, accordingly, functions are defined philosophy of the social sciences - ontological, methodological and metatheoretical. The question arises about the connection between them. When trying to establish such a connection, we will focus primarily on the “ontology of the social”.

We emphasize that philosophical conceptualizations of social realities are realized and function outside the context of the social sciences or without reference to them. Such conceptualizations are related to the philosophy of the social sciences if they are thematized as “the ontology of the social for the social sciences”.

In this regard, the relationship between the philosophy of the social sciences and social philosophy deserves special attention. The philosophy of the social sciences, as well as social philosophy, carries out conceptualization of social reality. First of all, this refers to conceptualizations of the ontological order - a general characteristic of social reality, the problem of agency. In this object orientation, the philosophy of the social sciences and social philosophy coincide. The difference lies in the fact that the former carries out its object conceptualizations, taking into account the fact that we are talking about a general philosophical definition of the subject area of the social sciences. Social philosophy, naturally, works regardless of whether its conceptualizations will be thematized as the subject area of social and scientific cognition.

At the same time, if such thematization can be realized, or even more so, it is obvious that both philosophical disciplines coincide. It would be more accurate to say that social philosophy acts in the function of the philosophy of the social sciences. In fact, this confirms what was said above that the philosophy of the social sciences does not have to take the form of only an autonomous philosophical discipline with that name.

The problem of the philosophy of the social sciences as a problem of the relationship between philosophy and the social sciences has a very long history. However, since this work is focused on analyzing the current state of the philosophy of the social sciences, it is inevitable that the focus of attention should be the most influential philosophical tradition. Accordingly, most of the positions considered in the article refer specifically to the tradition of analytical philosophy. In addition to this “intrap philosophical” circumstance, let us note another - at present, social sciences, primarily in their theoretical component, are most intensively developed by me in the same cultural and university-institutional space with analytical philosophy.

When referring to the methodological function of the philosophy of the social sciences, the object of consideration is extremely general problems that form a kind of theoretical and methodological framework of social and scientific cognition. Methods of specific empirical research, observation and measurement techniques, testing methods, etc. remained outside the scope of attention. Significant the variety of such methods is determined, as is known, not only a variety of objects under study, but also adherence to different theoretical paradigms and traditions. And such paradigms and traditions in one form or another are present in specific research, even if it is claimed to be absent or rejected. Thus, general methodological problems are related not only to theoretical in the narrow sense, but also to concrete-empirical, social-scientific knowledge, at least in an indirect form.



Philosophy of the Social Sciences in its Metatheoretical Function appears in the form of a metatheoretical analysis of research results and theories in various social and scientific disciplines. Moreover, it is able to take on the function of a comparative interdisciplinary analysis of such results and theories. With this vision of the philosophy of the social sciences, it acts in fact as a kind of bringing together, as a synthesis of what is being undertaken in terms of metatheoretical reflection within the social sciences themselves.

IV. DISCUSSION

Traditionally, in the philosophy of the social sciences, a significant role played the questions of the value and ideological orientation of the researcher and the corresponding content in the theoretical production. At present, attention to the value-world outlook problems has noticeably decreased. This is due primarily to the weakening of the role and importance of social criticism in social and scientific knowledge. Of course, this problem does not disappear completely. Its acuteness is neutralized, and it is displaced to the periphery of the meta-theoretical and methodological problems of social and scientific knowledge. This circumstance should be considered very important characteristic of modern philosophy of the social sciences.

In general, the philosophy of the social sciences remains a relevant area of philosophical research, in demand as a means of comprehending the practice and results of social and scientific knowledge.

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