

SYSTEM-PURPOSE METHOD: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS

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ABSTRACT

This article observes methodological aspects of conflict-contractual theory of social systems. System-purpose method is formulated and determined in frame of the theory and presented in this article.

Keywords: Philosophy of science, epistemology, system theory, methodology of science, social theory.

INTRODUCTION

This article is directed to provide theoretical formulation of system-purpose method. Connection of system and purpose is demonstrated. Purpose and its cause-effect characteristic is expressed to show general scientific methodological meaning of system-purpose method.

System-purpose method is observed in correlation with social system that allowed author to formulate practical approach on understanding of purposes of systems in general and social systems in particular.

SYSTEM AND PURPOSE

System-method has central place in the research of conflict-contractual theory of social systems (Dursunov, 2017, 8), and which is essential for understanding of causes and mechanisms of the organization of society as the whole.

Bertalanffy defines system as number of elements in interaction (Bertalanffy, 1969, 83), as well as the relation of the whole to partial. The whole, in turn, acquires different qualities and characteristics than sum of parts (Bertalanffy, 1969, 55).

While consideration of system character of society the question arises: what is the reason that individuals are united in societies? These inferences lead to the concept of purpose. At the same time, it should be noted that the concept of purpose is not new in science. Existence of purposes had been already considered in "Metaphysics" of Aristotle (Aristotle, 1801, 51-52, 110).

At the same time in the framework of study of conflict-contractual theory of social systems we were interested in correlation of purpose to the system method. The purpose is considered by us as necessity, which leads to unification of parts into the whole, pluralities into unity and individuals in society (Dursunov, 2017, 8).

It should be noted that Bertalanffy in "General System Theory" also observes the concept of purpose in relation to systems (Bertalanffy, 1969, 46, 77). However, concrete and detailed consideration of this issue in the work is absent.

Questions related to purpose character of existence are considered by teleology. However, in this research we are interested in methodological aspect of purpose, especially in correlation of system and purpose.

System-purpose approach is already used in technical sciences (Big encyclopedia of oil and gas). At the same time it could be affirmed that system-purpose method may be applied in researches in sphere of social sciences. Thus, Merriam-Webster dictionary gives the following

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definition of system analysis – "the act, process, or profession of studying an activity (as a procedure, a business, or a physiological function) typically by mathematical means in order to define its goals or purposes and to discover operations and procedures for accomplishing them most efficiently."(Merriam-Webster)

In aforementioned framework this system-purpose approach is observed as particular way to solve tasks. In turn, it could be asserted that system-purpose method is general scientific method that proceeds from system method and which could be used both in social and exact sciences.

System-purpose method means that while the research of certain objects, which represent the union of parts (elements) into the whole (the system), the purposes of their union should be considered, which serve as uniting factor [9]. Most of the systems are complex, they may be composed of subsystems and subsystem, in turn, from other subsystems, etc. In other words, the whole has purpose, which brings together parts which also have their own purposes. In turn, each part could be considered as the whole with its purposes, which is also composed of parts having their own purposes.

As a result, determining the purpose the whole and purposes of the parts it is possible to determine the nature of interaction of these parts and the nature of their unification, as well as to identify patterns of their motion (Dursunov, 2017, 9).

This provision is fundamental in system-purpose method, which could be applied in many sciences.

System-purpose method is one of the basics of the conflict-contractual theory of social systems and its application is demonstrated on the example of the societies.

PURPOSE AND CAUSE-EFFECT RELATION

As it was determined, the purpose is concept that defines the movement of societies and individuals. Thus, interaction of systems and their formation are determined and directed by purpose.

In system aspect purpose is that what leads plurality into unity (Dursunov, 2017, 9). The movement of plurality into unity is determined by purpose. Therefore, this concept arises while consideration of system character of society.

Consequently, for understanding of nature and patterns of social systems it is necessary to comprehend the nature of purpose and existence of purpose in the context of social systems.

Firstly, the nature of the purpose is its ability to bring plurality into unity, parts into the whole. In system meaning, purpose is that what forms the system and without what the system can not exist. This is ontological aspect of purpose, which determines the existence of systems in their dialectical unity (Dursunov, 2017, 10).

Secondly, purpose characterizes cause-effect relation (Voltaire, 1823, 2, 7). Purpose is cause of the movement of individuals and societies. For individuals purpose is the cause of their interaction and unification into social systems. For social systems purpose is cause of their interaction, unification into more complex systems, as well as disintegration (Dursunov, 2017, 10).

In this aspect, gnoseological meaning of purpose as determinative of cause-effect relations appears. By investigation of purpose it is possible to ascertain cause-effect relation, to perceive nature of the research objects and regularities of their existence. Thereby, purpose has gnoseological aspect. Purpose is necessary for perception of the research objects through their cause-effect relations (Dursunov, 2017, 10).

Thus, the existence of the formed system means the achievement of purpose that generates consequences or effects for the entire global system.

Consequently, purpose is cause of the formation of system and its movement. In turn, the cause is the purpose. Since purpose is achieved, it generates effects for system, for its movement

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and entire environment. It can be concluded that purpose before to its realization is the cause, and after its realization is the effect.

SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND SYSTEM-PURPOSE METHOD.

All the variety of humans' associations constitutes system – global society, which is the system consisting of the other systems of lower order. The main elements of this global social system are societies.

We will proceed from the fact that the system (as the whole) consist of parts and is characterized by such interaction of components which identifies it as the whole. (Dursunov, 2017, 14)

Every system consists of parts which in turn are also systems and which are in constant interaction because purpose unifies parts into the whole.

Therefore, defining nature of the parts, character of their interaction and purposes it is possible to reveal patterns of the research object, to perform analysis and to make conclusions.

System is unity of elements, which are in stable interaction necessary for realization of purpose or purposes. This stable interaction of elements or parts necessary for realization of purposes characterizes system as the whole.

Society is also system and is characterized by the purpose, participants and the stability of relations necessary for realization of these purposes.

Consequently, society is system association of individuals, stability and character of the relations of which are determined by realization of certain purposes (Dursunov, 2017, 14).

Or, social system (society) is the whole from totality of individuals who posses stable connections necessary for realization of purposes.

Observing the social systems through system-purpose method it is possible to define purposes of the societies, purposes, which brings individuals in unity. These purposes should have the general character, which would be applicable to all the diversity of the social systems in their variable existence.

MAIN PURPOSE

Human as biological species exists in the form of societies. These societies have system character. Thus, the population of the globe is organized on the system principle.

System character of human societies is defined by the purposeful directivity of societies and by stability of relations between participants of societies, which are oriented on the achievement of purposes. It is asserted that system – is plurality directed into unity in the frame of common purpose.

Consequently, in social understanding system is the whole, which consist of totality of individuals who have stable relations necessary for realization of certain purposes. (Dursunov, 2017, 11)

In order to understand which purpose unites all societies into the whole and connects them to each other it is necessary to refer to the biological aspect of the human.

Firstly, the human is a living organism. This means that the human in his existence is guided by the same fundamental regularities, which belong to all living organisms considered by science as biological species.

Secondly, the human exists in society. This fact is undeniable – history testifies that the human's life as of individual arose, developed and formed always in connection with other individuals beginning from family and ending by state. (Dursunov, 2017, 11)

Every biological species within their material existence has purpose. The purpose of any species is life. Consequently, the purpose of any species is to survive in actuality and to continue its existence in future.

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Proceeding from the limitation in time of actual life of biological species the only way to continue their existence in the future is reproduction, the continuation of existence of the genetic information in the posterity.

While consideration of vital activity of biological species we can see that they all have the same regularity in their existence – all living organisms aspire to survive and reproduce, and the diversity of their actions is determined by these two aspects. This conclusion comes from the generality of particular cases and it could be asserted that this fact is the pattern for living organisms. As this pattern is distinctive for living beings in general, then it is also valid for the human. The human in its existence is also directed on survival and reproduction, which in turn, is identical to its existence in actuality and its existence in future.

At the same time, it should be noted that the human (as biological species) is conscious. This fact distinguishes him from other species and determines its exceptional place. The human in his behavior and interaction with other individuals is guided not only by sensible and reflective processes, but also by intelligible concepts. Accordingly, aforementioned encompasses the complexity and diversity of social connections of humans.

However, the purpose of survival and reproduction should be designated as Main Biological Purpose. This purpose is imperative in human behavior because the human guided by other purposes would lose its destination without possibility of his continuation, which ultimately would lead to the extinction of the human species. (Dursunov, 2017, 12)

The theory of natural selection of Charles Darwin is based on provision about the striving of biological species to survive. In the result of the struggle for life the most resistant species will survive and that is the essence of natural selection (Darwin, 1861, 12). Considering the point of view of the classic of biological science it could be seen that his theory is based on the striving of species for life. In the result of this striving, representatives of species that possess the necessary qualities will survive in struggle. Darwin's theory proves the striving of living organisms to survive. In turn, natural selection has no meaning without striving of species to survive. Also, the term "struggle for life" of Charles Darwin includes not only the lives of individuals, but also the success in the existence of posterity (Darwin, 1861, 62), which corresponds to the understanding of Main Purpose within this theory.

The achievement of other purposes is impossible without realization of Main Biological Purpose. For example, if one has purpose to perceive information, he can not realize it without his existence, and he has to perform actions aimed on survival. In order to act the human must live, but in order to live, he must survive, that means to get the necessary resources for life.

Let us suppose that the human perceived certain quantity of information, but his biological time is coming to the end. The question arises, what to do with the amount of effort that has been expended on the comprehension of information. With his death all the volume of efforts that have been exercised by the human will disappear. This means that he lived and did not act and if life necessary to act this means that he did not live. Therefore, the human endeavours to transmit his life not only in biological way, but also by transmission of the results of his activity. It should be noted that life and action is always coexist and are inseparable – one without the other is meaningless. Despite of the fact that the human can transmit the results of his activity into the future, they will not matter if the other human can not comprehend them and consequently to live. The human must exist otherwise his activity will not matter. Therefore, the reproduction is necessary for the human to be able to act in the future, and to transmit the results of his activity into the future. (Dursunov, 2017, 13)

Consequently, we have determined that the biological purpose of the human is survival and reproduction, and is directed on existence in actuality and in future. Societies are associations of individuals, so the biological purpose is present in every society.

In conflict-contractual theory it is asserted that the biological purpose is Main Purpose of the general system of societies. The term "Main Purpose" would imply Main Biological Purpose (Dursunov, 2017, 13).

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The human's population of the planet Earth is the system – interconnected global society. Despite the fact that there is a great diversity of different societies in the world they are all part of the global society, which is the highest level of social systems. The unifying factor of various human societies is Main Purpose. In the framework of the global social system (global society) this purpose means survival and continuation of existence of the human species. Based on the fact that all societies (social systems) are part of the global society this Main Purpose is also inherent to societies, which are incorporated into it (Dursunov, 2017, 13).

Thereby, system character of the global society is determined by Main Purpose, which defines stability of the interrelations of participants of the global system of societies.

All the variety of human societies forms one global social system and Main Purpose is directing point of this system. This purpose is based on the nature of the human and because any society is composed of individuals this purpose is also inherent to all societies.

Global society is the highest level of social systems which consist of all existing human societies and individuals stability and the character of interrelations and movement of which are determined by Main Purpose.

The global social system is a multi-level as it has a complicated intersubordinated system structure and the order and motion of which is based on Main Purpose (Dursunov, 2017, 14). Accordingly, we can conclude that the global social system is multi-level system, which consists of all social systems (societies) and individual interconnected and structured in relation to each other and the general motion and interaction of which is determined by Main Purpose.

PRIVATE PURPOSE

It should be noted that the social systems are formed not only for realization of Main Purposes but also for realization of Private Purposes.

Development of societies, diversity of life activities, the human's consciousness led to the fact that social systems began to form on the basis of Private Purpose.

Aristotle considers that the human possesses purpose pursued by itself which is never elected as the mean for the other. This purpose is happiness (Aristotle, 1906, 13-14). In "Nicomachean Ethics" happiness is defined as "the highest and most beautiful good which procures the greatest pleasure." (Aristotle, 1906, 21)

Consequently, we can conclude that the human in his behavior has one more purpose besides biological. This purpose is aimed on obtaining of the greatest pleasure that can not be compatible with suffering. Therefore, the human has purpose of which is aimed on getting pleasure and reduction of suffering. This purpose we will denote as Private Purpose – purpose of getting pleasure and reduction of suffering (Dursunov, 2017, 16).

If Main Purpose is caused by biological necessity then Private Purpose is caused by subjective desires which are based on getting pleasure and reduction of suffering.

After primitive social systems developed into more complex systems then Main Purpose was mostly satisfied. Surpluses of goods arose which was used to get pleasure and to reduce suffering. As a result, social systems, which were intended on realization of Private Purposes, began to form.

First of all, the human is conscious being which is able to receive two kinds of pleasure and suffering: material and ideal.

Material is perceived by the senses, and ideal is perceived by the intellect. The first includes physical pleasure and pain and the second – spiritual, such as love or grief. This peculiarity results variety of Private Purposes, which are the cause of the formation of multitude of social systems. Feelings of possession and non-possession as well as feeling of achievement and non-achievement of purposes belong to ideal pleasure and suffering (Dursunov, 2017, 16).

It should be noted that Private Purpose has secondary character. Without realization of Main Purpose the individual can not physically realize Private Purpose. Therefore, Main Purpose has higher place in the hierarchy.

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Private Purposes can be individual and collective.

Besides, the relations between the participants of social systems can have ambiguous character – for one participant interaction may have the character of Main Purpose and for another participant the character of Private Purpose.

Based on the aforesaid, it can be concluded that the cause of Main Purpose is necessity and the cause of Private Purpose is desire.

Private Purpose can serve as finite purpose or as a mean to achieve other purposes – as intermediate. For example, for participants of economic social system Private Purpose is to obtain material goods. This purpose can have finite character for getting pleasure from the process itself and can have intermediate character for getting pleasure by the means of these material goods.

We found out that Private Purpose exists for individual (example, as the initial element of all societies) besides of Main Purpose. If Main Purpose answers on question will there be existence of individual in actuality and future then Private Purpose answers on question what existence will be in actuality and future for individual. Hence individuals constitute the diversity of social systems for realization of Private Purposes. Thus, social systems are also directed on realization of Private Purposes of individuals whose purposes coincide.

SYSTEM PURPOSE

As for individual it is necessary to realize Main Purpose for existence in actuality and future so for social system it is necessary to exist in space-time frame determined by the purposes for realization of which the social system has been formed.

Social systems besides possession of Main Purpose and Private Purpose, which lay in the basis of their formation, also have System Purpose necessary for their functioning.

System Purpose is the purpose of the social system realization of which is directed on ensuring of the existence of the system in space-time frames which are determined by the purpose of formation (destination) of this system (Dursunov, 2017, 17). Social system can be formed as for realization of Main Purpose and as for Private Purpose of participants. But, in addition, the social system will possess System Purpose which will ensure the existence of this system and that will allow system to realize the purposes of its formation.

Consequently the system has: 1) the purpose for realization of which the system was formed (Main Purpose and Private Purpose in social systems); 2) the purpose which is directed on existence of the system. Therefore it can be designated that social systems also have purpose of destination and purpose of existence (Dursunov, 2017, 17-18)

The first purpose cannot be achieved if the system does not exist and function in space and time. Therefore, the system should take the actions necessary to maintain its existence in the present and in the future till her purpose of destination will be realized.

In some way System Purpose is reflection of Main Purpose because principle of self-preservation of individuals is reflected as principle of self-preservation of collectives.

System Purpose can be regarded as purpose of functioning or existence. But purpose for realization of which the system was formed (Main Purpose and Private Purpose) can be regarded as purpose of destination.

System Purpose is the purpose of self-preservation of system the duration of which is determined by the purpose of destination (Dursunov, 2017, 18). If social system is mainly aimed on the realization of Main Purpose then System Purpose is not limited in time. In case if social system is mainly aimed on realization of Private Purpose then System Purpose is finite. If social system fulfilled the purpose of destination for which it was formed then necessity in System Purpose expires as necessity in existence of social system is absent.

System Purpose is exclusively directed on exercise of actions, which ensure existence of the system. For example, there are special bodies in state that ensure its existence and which are

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responsible not only for the implementation of purposes of destination but also assure the functioning of the system necessary for implementation of these purposes.

If purposes of destination are related to participants of social system as to plurality and individual particular then purpose of existence or System Purpose refers to participants of social system as to unity and the collective whole.

Thereby, System Purpose is the purpose, which is necessary to ensure the existence and functioning of the social system for realization of its purposes of destination.

CONCLUSIONS

Meaning of system-purpose method as way of obtainment of scientific knowledge is formulated in conflict-contractual theory of social systems and which consists in determination of purposes of elements of system and of system in general. Purpose allows us to define cause-effect connection in motion of matter. Besides this it was ascertained that purpose before its realization has character of cause and is in potential condition (state) but after its realization has character of effect and is in actual condition. System-purpose method allowed us to find out purposes of individuals, which determine forms interaction between them and constitution of systems. We can assert that system-purpose method and its essence as general scientific method was first formulated in conflict-contractual theory of social systems.

Application of system-purpose method demonstrates that systems possess two types of purposes: 1) purpose of destination (the purpose for realization of which the system was formed); 2) purpose of existence (the purpose which is directed on existence of the system)

Purpose of destination in framework of social systems has two reflections: 1) Main Purpose is survival and reproduction or existence in actuality and in future; 2) Private Purpose is purpose of getting pleasure and reduction of suffering

Most of societies have in their basis Private Purpose and which is the preferential cause of their existence. But Main Purpose is still present in every society because it is inherent to every individual and every society is composed of individuals despite the fact that society has Private Purpose.

Main Purpose lays in the nature of an individual that gets reflection in the global society as display of unity of initial and finite. Accordingly, this purpose through initial in the individual level passes through all societies to the finite in the level of the global social system.

The individual level is display of single and the global social system is display of multiple. Main Purpose for the individual is the existence in actuality (present) and the future of the single person. Main Purpose for the global social system is the existence in actuality and future of the human as the biological species.

If Main Purpose is that what brings unity and order in the movement from initial to finite then Private Purpose brings contradiction and alteration in the movement from initial to finite.

In turn, purpose of existence is designated as System Purpose – the purpose of the social system realization of which is directed on ensuring of the existence of the system in space-time frames which are determined by the purpose of formation (destination) of this system.

Therefore, article provides theoretical formulation and substantiation of system-purpose method and describes its application on systems in general and the social systems in particular.

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