

Contents

Introduction	7
1. Specification of the Issue. The Subject of Social Sciences. The Issue of Commensurability and Incommensurability of Social and Natural Sciences	9
1.1 The Subject of Social Sciences	9
1.2 The Issue of So-called Commensurability and Incommensurability, Respectively, Social and Natural Sciences	11
1.3 The Subject as a Deciding Agent	13
1.4 The Decision-making of a Subject under Various Information Conditions	16
1.5 "Conceivable worlds" in social sciences	18
2. Cognition of social reality	23
2.1 Cognitive function of social sciences. Normative and non-normative view of social sciences on examined issues	23
2.2 "Time" within reflection of social sciences. Historical time	28
2.3 Issue of the meaning in history and the role of social sciences in its exposure	32
2.4 Issue of causality in social sciences	35
2.5 Society as a dynamic system. Idea of the "dynamic system" in social sciences and issue of causality in history	37
3. Deductively and inductively formed theories	44
3.1 Deductively formed theories in social sciences	44
3.2 Deductive procedure in a normatively formed social theory	47
3.3 Inductively formed social theory	50
3.4 Deductively-inductively derived theoretical system	57

4. Functions of terminology in scientific communication and the methods of defining terms in social sciences	59
4.1 Issue of defining terms and their importance in scientific communication	59
4.2 Classification of terms	62
4.3 Most frequent methods of defining terms in sciences exploring social issues	65
5. Scientific discourse and paradigm in social sciences.	
Explanation in social sciences	68
5.1 Non-normative and normative discourse in social sciences	68
5.2 Issue of paradigm in social sciences	75
5.3 Explanation	77
5.4 Explanation using the form of subsumption under the explanatory theory	80
5.5 Explanation, prediction, post diction	82
6. Narrative as a method of interpreting examined social events	88
6.1 Narrative and discourse formations	88
6.2 Role of a narrator in the narrative discourse	97
6.3 Interpretative role of a narrator	101
7. Customary dichotomy in social sciences and possible basis of its bridging	103
7.1 Outline of a customary dichotomy in social sciences	103
7.2 Explanatory concept of cause and interpretative concept of meaning	104
7.3 Individualism versus "collectivism" in social sciences	110
7.4 Idea of "homo economicus" as an example of ontological atomism and its modification in social sciences	112
7.5 Social ("collectivist") conception of social evolution	116
Conclusions	120
Bibliography	123
Summary	140
Index	141