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На сьогодні існують різні думки з приводу того, чи сформувалась самостійна теорія і практика трансформації конфлікту. Тому дане дослідження спрямоване на вивчення існуючих підходів до розуміння даної стратегії. Зважаючи на це, охарактеризовані позиції провідних західних дослідників та практиків, які намагались сформувати й проаналізувати окрему школу впливу на конфлікт – школу трансформації конфлікту. В дослідженні наголошено на тому, що школа трансформації конфлікту відрізняється від шкіл врегулювання, вирішення та управління конфліктів, хоча всі вони опираються на спільні традиції вивчення конфліктів і втручання в конфлікти. Проаналізовано основні аспекти прояву трансформації конфліктів та їх характеристики. Виокремлено елементи, які сприяють розумінню даної стратегії та самі підходи до розуміння. З'ясовано, що трансформація конфлікту, як і будь яка інша стратегія впливу на конфлікт залежить від його функціональності.

Ключові слова: конфлікт, трансформація конфлікту, управління конфлікту, врегулювання конфлікту, вирішення конфлікту.

На сегодня существуют разные мнения по поводу того, сформировалась самостоятельная теория и практика трансформации конфликта. Поэтому данное исследование направлено на изучение существующих подходов к пониманию данной стратегии. Несмотря на это, охарактеризованы позиции ведущих западных исследователей и практиков, которые пытались сформировать и проанализировать отдельную школу влияния на конфликт - школу трансформации конфликта. В исследовании отмечено, что школа трансформации конфликта отличается от школ урегулирования, решение и управления конфликтов, хотя все они опираются на общие традиции изучения конфликтов и вмешательства в конфликты. Проанализированы основные аспекты проявления трансформации конфликтов и их характеристики. Выделены элементы, которые способствуют пониманию данной стратегии и сами подходы к пониманию. Выяснено, что трансформация конфликта, как и любая другая стратегия влияния на конфликт зависит от его функциональности.

Ключевые слова: конфликт, трансформация конфликта, управление конфликта, урегулирования конфликта, разрешение конфликта.

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METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE IDEA OF "POLITICAL NON-PARTICIPATION" IN MODERN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The research is devoted to the analysis of modern methodological approaches to the conceptualization of scientific terms, concepts, categories, definitions in determining political non-participation and electoral behavior in modern Western electoral democracies. The basic principles of theorization, operationalization and categorization of scientific concepts are

investigated. The article explores fundamentalist and nominalist interpretations of the categories of the political process.

Key words: *political non-participation, absenteeism, indifference, essentialism, nominalism.*

In political science there is a set of methodological approaches to understanding the methodological principles of the functioning of the political process. Methodological and categorical apparatus includes, on the one hand, descriptive theories describing, explaining the process of developing, adopting and implementing political decisions, and on the other hand, prescriptive theories on how to influence this process in order to increase its efficiency, and "so the use of numerical methods of research and argumentation for the purpose of producing and transforming politically significant information used in political infrastructure to solve socially significant problems" [6, pp.]. Thus, informational and value factors are in constant interaction and interplay, since some make political decisions, while others seek to develop a theoretical understanding of how this process works and how it should work. Political decisions and actions aimed at their implementation - the main result of which evaluates the effectiveness of the functioning of the main political institutions of society [2]. The variety of theories of political decision-making can be reduced to two main approaches: 1) rational, which seeks to maximize the effectiveness of the decisions taken, and 2) behavioral, which seeks to maximize the political advancement of the decisions taken. A rational approach comes from a systematic representation of a structure that understands the decision-making process in the categories of "input" and "output".⁰, p. 1 Therefore, informational and value factors are in constant interaction and interplay, since some make political decisions, while others seek to develop a theoretical understanding of how this process works and how it should work. "A rational approach to the process of making a political decisions is so simple and understandable, its logic is so obvious that" only destructive people will not strive always and everywhere for effective distribution of resources "[22, p. 32]. However, a rational decision-making method has encountered a number of specific problems. First issue is the problem of information. Information requests for typical rational methods are often not satisfied with the available financial, technical, organizational and human resources. Information-analytical mechanisms, in turn, foresee the use by actors of their knowledge and experience to study the range of alternative solutions and actions in order to solve politically significant problems [21, p. 294]. Second complication is the problem of values. A rational approach offers the definition of goals, while avoiding the answers to the question of by whom and how these goals are determined. "Analysts at the same time can endlessly argue about the methods of deducting ... historically architectural composition ..., investing in various moral, aesthetic and ideological preferences, thereby loading their value" [22, 296]. American political analyst A. Vildavsky - one of the brightest representatives of the behavioral school argued that political goals "of course, are characterized by such signs: they are plural, contradictory and ambiguous" [15, p. 10]. Hence, the behavioral approach opposes itself to rational methodology for such a basic parameter - the best solution option - this is not a rational argument as a method of achieving goals, but a practical opportunity to reach agreement on a specific decision from the side of the stakeholders. Thus, decision making mechanisms "must be designed in such a way as to be notable, visible, and creative and can be corrected, and therefore cheap and acceptable" [286, c. 120] (Wildavski Speaking ... p.32).

Another methodological approach is a systematic study of public policy (in the form of an analysis of the assessment of past political decisions), that has an applied political character. Harold Lasswell proposed a conceptual framework that gives a generalized picture of the main stages of any collective act, and the "decision-making process": 1) the collection

of information; 2) promotion; 3) provision 4) proof; 5) offer; 6) suspension; 7) evaluation [12, p. Viii]. This scheme laid the foundation for what was later called "the theory of the process of developing, adopting and implementing a political decision" (political process). A modern presentation of this process is given by the scheme proposed by scholars G. Brueur and P. de León and includes six main stages [13, ch. 2, p. 22]. Thus, the indicated methodological approaches provide an opportunity for theoretical generalizations and interpretations of a wide spectrum of the political process (different levels and forms). The notion of "political non-participation", like any other concept, expresses a certain set of semantic meanings that characterizes a certain set of objects, phenomena, processes, properties, or relationships. "The concept is a form of thinking (thought), the content of which is a set of general and essential features of the subject" [3, p. 43]. Definition of the concept - this is the most important component of conceptual analysis, which is a logical operation, in which the content of the concept is revealed [3, p. 59]. The role of scientific concepts in theoretical analysis and empirical research is multifaceted. First, concepts are the basic elements of theories; they accumulate and convey an essential part of our knowledge of the real world and make it possible for its description and explanation. By fulfilling a specific integrative function in the system of scientific knowledge, they carry out the synthesis of knowledge at various levels of its integration. Concepts are necessary for systematization, classification and comparison of phenomena, measurement of their parameters and properties, etc. They, according to political scientist P. Kress, are "blood circulatory system of scientific activity" [9, p. 559]. Second, the concepts provide scientific communication. The role of the conceptual structure in science can be compared with the role of language in human relations. Third, the concept performs a heuristic function, being working tools (instruments) for scientific research. In the definition of scientific concepts there are two traditions - "essentialism (realism)" and "nominalism" (formalism). According to the first method, each descriptive concept has an essential meaning; essences are the characteristics of "real things", not words; the meaning of the concept is not "attributed", but "opens". So the notion of scientific literature is treated. It is believed that although concepts are available in human consciousness, they are objective in the source and nature of knowledge and, consequently, in their content are peculiar forms of imaginary reflection of real things. An essentialist approach was subjected to powerful criticism for considering that the concept of "... which denotes abstract entities ... in almost the same way as their own names denote people" [17, p. 507]. His opponents argue that this interpretation of the concept carries the problem. "Time," writes E. Isaac, "is spent on finding the true essence of the concepts, and not the empirical connections between them." In his opinion, "in science there is no place for real meaning and essential characteristics. Concepts are used to describe the world as we see it, and therefore the meaning of the essence is alien to science" [8, p. 62-63]. Unlike essentials, modern formalism asserts that the meaning of the concept is related to the linguistic expression, and not to the thing, and that definitions characterize the meaning (sense) of expressions that define the concept. Accordingly, "definitions do not carry" new "information" about reality, but only contain rules for the use of linguistic symbols "[16, p. 290]. Since we cannot be sure that a concept correctly identifies an aspect of reality, nominal definitions are neither true nor false. Given nominal definitions, we do not cover the essence, but only denote (give a name) a certain set of phenomena. Thus, "... the purpose of conceptual analysis is to clarify the significance of statements about political decisions, rather than to establish the truth or falsity of these statements" [5, p. 7]

Although scientific concepts are intended to represent certain aspects of objective reality and describe the world "as it is," they are not a direct reflection of reality, are not derived from experience, but are certain theoretical constructs. Knowing the world, the researcher builds "order from chaos," brings up his sensory impressions and experiences under certain notions, so that something can be known, it must be meaningful.

The concept is not a mirror image of being, its "copy." The never-ending debate in the scientific literature about the definition of concepts such as absenteeism, political absenteeism, uncertainty, indifference, political inaction and its relation to other concepts prove that the objective reality is that, standing behind these concepts - "displayed" depending on the theoretical and methodological orientation of the researchers, their experience and intuition.

From the point of view of the correlation between meaning and word (term), the typical drawbacks of the use of words (concepts) are confusion and ambiguity. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze a number of principles, which should be guided by the definition of "political non-participation".

Avoiding the disadvantages of confusion in the process of conceptualizing the concept and defining the concept in such a way that it successfully fulfilled its functions should be guided by methodological principles that relate to its content, logical structure and possibilities of use in practical research. Although any other concept has no "real" meaning, it does not mean that it can be defined arbitrarily without explanation and justification, or that all conceptualizations are equally acceptable. There are objective criteria for choosing the concept, its performance and utility. "Conceptual analysis," writes political scientist D. Baldwin, "suggests certain policy principles or" rules of the game "through which it can be assessed." He emphasizes that the idea of "free" definition of concepts is "anathema for conceptual analysis" [5, p. 171].

From the point of view of the content of the concept, the main principle is "uniqueness". The concept, as the political sociologist P. Morris points out, should be defined in such a way as to express something that cannot be expressed without such a concept [14, p. 36]. Scientific concepts must have a certain (unique) meaning: the conceptual structure cannot be "clogged" with synonyms, the presence of which inevitably affects the legibility and clarity of the description and explanation of social reality. Although many concepts have common elements, or the same concepts serve as elements of others, they should not have the same content.

This principle was carefully considered by J. Sartori, who even proposed an "anti-waste rule": no word should be used as a synonym of another [18, p. 35-40]. Sartori emphasizes that unwarranted use of words as synonyms is a waste of pronunciation that leads to ambiguities and confusion.

Such a view is a valid critique of those authors who do not make clear distinctions between terms, using them as synonyms. "Political non-participation / political absenteeism" of course, has different forms, but this does not mean that different concepts can be used as synonyms. "Non-participation" can be defined through "indifference", or vice versa, "indifference" - through "non-participation". In some contexts, the difference between these concepts may not be significant. But one way or another, these are different concepts; they mean different things. Their delimitation should be carried out in any study, especially in the conceptual analysis of the problem under investigation.

Usually, all attempts to determine begin with the semantic analysis of the word "political non-participation". This corresponds to the estimations of most researchers of the principles of conceptualization, according to which any social concept should correlate with the everyday meaning of the word representing the specified concept. The lawfulness of this principle is beyond doubt: the social concept cannot have a meaning completely different from the meaning of the word, because it will inevitably lead to misunderstandings and difficulties in the process of scientific communication. Relationship with the world of routine is one of the essential features of political science, which distinguishes it from the methodology of natural sciences [1, c. 38; 4, p. 164]. This methodological principle is most clearly expressed in phenomenology and hermeneutics. A. Shyutz notes: "To characterize

social reality, social objects designed by social researchers must be based on those thought objects, which are constructed with common sense and correspond to the everyday experience of people living in a practical life in their social world" [19, p. 11-12]. Moreover, the concepts in everyday language often indicate differences that are essential for the reflection of wealth and the nuances of political life that cannot express the technical language. In everyday language we distinguish between rivalry and conflict, belief and bargaining, preferences and interest. "Awareness of using implicit rules (linguistic expressions) is a necessary prelude for understanding political phenomena" [16, p.283].

Thus, the semantic analysis of modern meanings and the origin of the term "political non-participation" contribute to the definition of the semantic field of "political absenteeism" and the identification of its peculiarities. It shows the range of relations and properties that define this concept and make a certain order in their use. At the same time, it helps to identify the disadvantages of existing approaches [11, p. 325]. In some cases, such an appeal to the semantics of the word and those principles that people implicitly mimic when using a language is one of the sources of rethinking the meaning of certain important concepts. This is evident on the example of the concept of "politics". For a long time, the use of the concept was limited to the sphere of state structures and the decision-making process. However, in the 1960s of the twentieth century, researchers drew attention to those aspects and characteristics of activities that were consistent with politics at everyday level. Relying on their everyday language, they began to study "the political aspects of non-state organizations" [16, p. 308]. However, the conceptual analysis of "political non-participation" is not limited to the definition of the concept only on the basis of studying the linguistic aspects of the given word. The analysis of the usual meaning of the phrase "political non-participation" may and must be the very first stage of the conceptualization of power, since it allows us to determine what concepts we should use when we speak about politics and why we use these very concepts. The study of words, their semantic meanings and origin, as political scientist P. Morris emphasizes, "... help us to get started. But after the start, when already consider the concepts themselves, the facts of the verbal order we are no longer able to help" [14, p. 204].

The passage of the traditional meaning of social concepts is also important because the concepts accumulate our interest in certain aspects of social reality.

The concept must be written in a certain theoretical model, and the validity of the model is an indispensable condition for the validity of the concept. Some researchers even argue that any concept exists only within a certain scientific theory [57, c. 164]. This criterion is often used to distinguish between "operational" and "theoretical" concepts. In particular, the scientist E. Isaac, like many other researchers, distinguishes three types of concepts: (1) directly observable concepts, (2) operational concepts and (3) theoretical concepts. The theoretical concept, he writes, is determined only within the framework of the theoretical system.

Consider the theory as a system of interconnected concepts; some of them are determined directly or operationally, some are not. The latter are among the theoretical concepts; they acquire meaning from the theory: if they rip them out of the context of the theory, they will become meaningless. The theoretical concept cannot be defined independently, but only within the framework of the general theory. Its value depends on other concepts of this theory and their relationship with each other [2, c. 66, 68]. As an example of a theoretical concept, the scientist Isaac uses a "line" and a "point" in Euclidean geometry. He notes that these concepts acquire their meaning from the relationship with other concepts. "Remove the Euclidean" point "from its natural habitat, - says the researcher, - and it will become not just a single concept, but meaningless concept" [8, p. 67].

In contrast to theoretical concepts, two other types of concepts - "directly observed" and "operational" - remain relevant even outside the context of the theory in which they are used.

"Directly Observed Concepts" (for example, "political non-participation") "are directly related to physical objects and they have a certain set of properties that are well known to us" [8, p. 63]. "Operational" concepts do not correspond directly to observed objects, but can be expressed by directly observable phenomena or behavior, that is, "determined by means of directly contemplative properties" [8, p. 68]. Unlike theoretical concepts, operational concepts denote and express a certain set of empirical features, and therefore it cannot be said that "political non-participation" cannot be empirically fixed (but we can say this about "political gain"). Thus, "operational notion is a concept that can be determined independently in a set of empirical circumstances" [8, p. 68]. At the same time, the differences between theoretical and operational concepts should not be exaggerated. The meaning of operational concepts is often associated with certain theoretical systems. Although the notion of "political non-participation" can be determined with the help of empirically fixed properties, the clarity and concreteness of the concept reaches only in the system of interrelated social concepts. In this case, "political non-participation" acquires a specific, only inherent role in explaining social reality and content, different from the content of other concepts. Outside the connection with the conceptual system, the description and explanation of empirical facts are unlikely to be integral to the criterion of completeness. Another group of principles for defining the concept relates to the structure of the concept and the form of its explication: the structure of the concept should provide a legible and clear understanding of "political non-participation." One and the same meaning (meaning) of a concept can be expressed by means of various means and in different ways. Therefore, its descriptive and explanatory possibilities, and hence its practical utility, will also be different. Such a group of principles includes, above all, such standard requirements as accuracy, consistency, utility [10, p. 322]. In addition, the properties should be clearly explained, and their values are free from ambiguities and ambiguities. Finally, it is necessary that the structure of the concept allow comparing the content of the concept with other social concepts and fix their common features and differences. The advantage here is the concept with a certain structure and clearly defined limits, consisting of clearly defined constitutive elements.

Not all authors pay due attention to the form of conceptualization of the concept and a clear description of its elements, in particular the necessary specification of the explanation of terms, they often do not explain their content, which, of course, makes their concepts less clear, and sometimes leads to confusion in the concepts. Not always, researchers conduct comparisons with other concepts, and often they do not go beyond the connotation of the definition with its subsequent explanation. The justification for choosing the decisive elements of "political non-participation" and the need to include (or not include) an element in the structure of the concept is also often lacking.

Practical usefulness and value of concepts are usually associated with the possibilities of their use in empirical studies. Many philosophers, this is considered "basic requirement", proposed to social concepts, according to which "the concept is the basic components of empirical science, and they must be associated with the empirical world" [8, p. 69; 7 pp. 39 - 45]. Not all concepts, as already noted above, are directly related to the corresponding empirical variables. Nevertheless, they have empirical significance "precisely because they are logically related to other concepts" [8, p. 69]. Thus, the empirical usefulness of "political non-participation" is due to those elements of its structure that can be empirically measured by their links with other elements in the content of the concept.

Consequently, most researchers who write about the operationalization of concepts in the broadest sense: state that conceptualization should have a connection with the world of social experience, although not necessarily defined entirely through operations. But in such an interpretation the requirement of operationalization is directed against those definitions of social concepts, in which there is no even indirect connection with the observed phenomena.

In this context, the requirement for operationalization appears to be important, since social concepts are often determined solely in value-normative terminology. For example, public interests are public good, etc. Such a definition does not meet the criterion of operationalism, even in the broadest sense. Operationalization approach seeks to direct researchers to replacing these kinds of value definitions with concepts that can be used (or adapted) to study specific socio-political practice.

Speaking about the possibility of concepts to be used in empirical studies, one should note the principle that the practical meaning of the concept will be better if it does not include "by definition" what should be left open to empirical research. Important problems of political analysis should not be resolved at the level of conceptualization of the concept. The concept of power should be left free of empirical evidence, meaningful assessments of power relations in various social spheres, regulatory preferences, social facts, etc. All this is quite appropriate in scientific theories, designed to give a comprehensive and most complete explanation of the phenomena of nature and social reality, but not in concepts.

Finally, concepts have a great practical value, if they relate to already accumulated knowledge and developed research methods, concepts based on such verified methodological criteria have advantages over the concepts of other authors, since they are based on well-developed causal approaches; thus, the methods of causal explanation can be used in the study of relations in the field of preservation and protection of "cultural heritage."

Consequently, the notion of "political non-participation" has: (a) to have a specific, only characteristic content; (b) is relatively close to the traditional (common) meaning of the word "not interested in politics"; and (c) be related and related to others social concepts, as well as (d) the theoretical system as a whole. The structure and meaning of the concept must: (e) be consistent with the logic of the research; and (e) enable the use of existing models of explanation of social reality and modern research methods.

All these principles (which not only play the role of a "guide" in defining the concept, but can also be used in the assessment and comparison of different conceptualizations), it is obvious, not simply, as well as to assess, for example, the practical significance of the concept or its proximity to everyday the meaning of the word. Moreover, some principles may be in contradiction with each other, for example, the theoretical and operationalized properties of the concept. As science analysts Dzh.E.Lein and H.Stenlund have pointed out, political scientists "are oriented first on the theoretical content" and "seek to increase the theoretical value (concept) at the expense of practical value." Other, on the contrary, "often begins with abstract theoretical definitions and continues to the operational definitions, the connection of which with the initial abstract definition is not always visible" [11, p. 356].

Therefore, the application of these principles should be flexible and take into account some other considerations regarding the content of the concept. Usually researchers, as previously noted, agree with each other that different levels of conceptualization have some sort of common core that lies at their core. From this it follows that discussions around the definition of "political non-participation" are on the verge of the concept: what characteristics include the content of the concept, and which ones? The answer to this question largely depends on what type of concept we want to have in this case - "wide" or "narrow". Both types of concepts have their advantages and disadvantages. "Narrow" concepts are usually more clear and homogeneous, while "broad" - more complex, heterogeneous and can be used for a whole range of social facts and relationships.

The choice between "broad" and "narrow" interpretations of the concept depends primarily on the very concept. For "political non-participation," in our opinion, "broad" interpretation is more appropriate. First, "political non-participation" is a relatively "popular" word - in everyday language, and in scientific discourse; is used in relatively different events and phenomena. In this sense, "broad" interpretation appears to be quite natural. Secondly,

"political non-participation" is in addition to the "weighty", "significant") concept; it is intuitively identified with something very important, which has a significant impact on people's lives. Such a "broad" concept is more in line with traditional associations than "narrow". Thirdly, it seems to be preferable from the "practical" point of view: "broad" "political inactivity" makes the concept quite universal in order to take into account different interests (moral, evaluative, political, etc.); it allows us to use the concept for various purposes without the need to constantly change the meaning of the concept when changing the specific subject of the study, we can adopt a "broad" definition of "political non-participation" and then focus on those forms that interest us. Conversely, a substantial restriction of the scope of the concept leads to confusion. Finally, the main argument in favor of the "broad" conceptualization of the concept, as already noted earlier, is that we need a concept that would mark all types of relations between social actors in the political sphere.

The meaning of the concept depends, of course, not only on the choice between its "broad" and "narrow" interpretation. In each case, the inclusion of an element in the content of the concept must be specially stipulated. From this perspective, those conceptualizations that allow the flexibility to reflect the change in the social context are better. How is it necessary to construct a conceptual analysis to take into account these principles? Obviously, it cannot be limited to definitions with subsequent interpretations. The construction of the concept must have certain logic and consist of a number of necessary steps. Researchers used different ways to conduct a conceptual analysis, for example, scientists J. E. Lane and H. Stranglund believe that the definition of the concept should begin with "the most general relations, or properties, and then proceed to less general" [11, p. 324].

Thus, the process of conceptualizing the concept of "political non-participation" consists of three stages. First, the most general contours of the concept are based on the analysis of the semantics of the word. Further refinement of the concept is carried out by bringing it to the general concept. This allows us to transform a very broad range of meanings into a certain notion of "political non-participation" as a subcategory of another concept ("political absenteeism"). The main stage in constructing the notion of "political non-participation" is to exclude those types of causation that are not related to "political non-participation." In this article, "political non-participation" is considered and explained in the process of a combined analysis of the above-mentioned major problems and signs claiming the status of distinctive features of political behavior. The analysis begins with the most common problems and main features that largely determine other problems and distinctive features, as well as directions for further discussion and its conclusions. In the process of analysis, a consistent justification of the content of the concept is carried out. Some semantic signs and shades fit into the conceptual design, others are excluded. During the transition from one problem to another, the meaning of "political inaction" becomes more definite, and the boundaries of the concept are more clearly defined. The analysis begins with the most common problems and main features that largely determine other problems and distinctive features, as well as directions for further discussion and its conclusions. In the process of analysis, a consistent justification of the content of the concept is carried out. Some semantic signs and shades fit into the conceptual design, others are excluded.

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Дослідження присвячено аналізу сучасних методологічних підходів концептуалізації наукових термінів, понять, категорій, дефініцій при визначенні політичної неучасті та електоральної поведінки в сучасних західних електоральних демократіях. Досліджено засадничі принципи теоретизації, операціоналізації та категоризації наукових понять. Розкрито есенціалістські та номіналістські тлумачення категорій політичного процесу.

Ключові слова: політична неучасть, абсентеїзм, індеферентність, есенціалізм, номіналізм.

Исследование посвящено анализу современных методологических подходов концептуализации научных терминов, понятий, категорий, дефиниций при определении политического неучастия и электорального поведения в современных западных электоральных демократиях. Исследованы основополагающие принципы теоретизации, операционализации и категоризации научных понятий. Изучено эссенциалистское и номиналистское толкование категорий политического процесса.

Ключевые слова: политическое неучастие, абсентеизм, индифферентность, эссенциализм, номинализм.