

**Development of research methodology of psychology phenomenon. Since firsts experiences generalization to up to date psychology's methodology and methods.**

**Philosophy perspective**

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**Aim:** Review of the main methodology concepts in philosophy that influenced development of knowledge of psychology phenomenon as well as its influence to development of modern psychological methodology.

From the beginning of the development of Homo sapiens, man intended to explain somehow phenomenon in his environment. In the beginning, knowledge that man generated was very general. However with the development of human experience, that knowledge became differentiated in different fields. One of the most interesting fields used to be the examination of human psychology phenomenon. In order to examine psychology phenomenon, man used certain methods i.e. ways of knowledge acquirements. In praxis he realized that some methods are better than others and more efficient in exploring the truth, hence the old methods were substituted with the new ones.

In method development one can establish three periods, depending on the means that were used. These periods are:

**1. Pre philosophy period** – This period can be split in two sub periods: first, in which man generalized knowledge of psychology phenomenon through everyday experience. Because this knowledge could not explain much of psychology life which was of interest to man in his society and at his awareness development level, a new sub period appeared in which phenomena were explained by or through myths, legends, magic and religion through animism, totemic religion, polytheism and monotheism. The main characteristic of this period is the existence of the main dogma from which all other truths are derived, and also the truths about psychology phenomenon. Dogma arises from the generalization of deficient everyday experiences and built onto it.

**2. Philosophy – rational period** – This period started with the work of the first philosophers in Ancient Greece. The main characteristic of this period is the usage of the rational method, especially the usage of formal logic operations, which is regarded in whole reality and also psychology phenomenon. At this level there is no specific methodology for psychology phenomenon explorations, but is implied in general methods for exploring the whole **truth**. From this whole truth, knowledge related with psychology phenomenon is derived. Hence, methods developed in this period can also be considered as psychology methods, although knowledge of psychology phenomenon through them is reached indirectly. This period lasted till the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when radical changes in the usage of methodology in social and human sciences as well as in psychology occurred.

The most important authors in this period are<sup>1</sup>:

**Socrates and Plato** (and their dialectical method in its ancient meaning)

**Socrates** was the first to use the dialectic method, which reaches the truth through debate (dialog). The basic techniques of debate, Socrates used irony (inspection and dispute of existing knowledge) and deriving (giving a birth) of knowledge from new gathered facts).

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<sup>1</sup> This overview does not included all philosophers that practiced methodology problems, but only those who were the most important, i.e. those whose work changed the way of practice and had great influence in further development of methodology.

**Plato** started from Socrates' method and developed a cumulative system which didn't include only dialog, but the way of reaching the truth, which he named dialectic and which is considered to be the first cumulative methodology system.

**Aristotle** – principles of formal logic. The great systematist of ancient philosophy, the first developed formal system of inference and created formal discipline oriented towards proper thinking and proper inference – Organon or tool in reaching the truth. Later, this tool was named, "Logic." His logic was based on deductive inference (from general to individual), through syllogism (inference derived from two *state*). He developed terms such as: category, term, state, inference, of which many are still used in the same meaning.

**Francis Bacon** – includes inductive logic, unlike Aristotle's deductive logic.

**Rene Descartes, John Locke and Immanuel Kant**, - typical exponents of rational, empirical and classic German philosophy.

**G.W.F. Hegel and K. Marx** who established the dialectic method, the first one idealistic and second one materialistic.

**3. Empiric period** – This period began in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in natural sciences. However, it started to be implemented in the social sciences only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, mainly under the influence of positive philosophy. The main characteristic of this period is that logic operations are not enough by themselves for knowledge to be truth, hence empiric verification is also needed. In this period, Psychology has already become an independent science (in 1879), so we can no longer discuss the philosophy explanation of psychology phenomenon. However, it is at this time we begin to look at the influence of philosophy trends on the development of psychology trends and doctrines, as well as the influence on the development of psychology methodologies.

The main representatives of this period are:

**Positivism and logic positivism** – **O. Comte and B. Russell**. This trend in philosophy had greatest influence on the development of psychology's methodology and because of its principles; psychology became an independent scientific discipline.

**Utilitarianism** – **J.S. Mill**

**Structuralism** (**Ferdinand de Saussure**)

**Pragmatism** (**C.S. Pierce, W. James**)

**Hermeneutic** (**W. Dilthey**)

**Methodology of social sciences of Max Weber**

**Phenomenology** (**E. Husserl**)

Conclusions:

1. The methodology of modern psychology has its roots in the development of general philosophy methodology. The process of the development philosophy methods presents also the history of the development of psychology's methodology. To be able to completely understand development psychology's methodology, the development of general methodology must also be included.

2. Even after Psychology became an independent science, the great number of modern philosophy trends had and still have an influence on the methodology of modern psychology.

3. Psychology isn't a science that arose by itself and it doesn't exist for itself, but has deep roots in pre philosophy and philosophy knowledge. Every presentation of psychology theory and its methods, without relying on its complete development, is only one part of its whole development and does not present a complete picture of its methodological development.

4. Knowledge of historical development of psychology methodology presents *conditio sine qua non* of aspiration towards truth, as well as development of new, more precise and more accurate methodological actions.