



Phenomenology and Structuralism: The Possibility of Developing a Universal Research Methodology

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Abstract— The article describes the possibility of developing a universal research methodology and the innovative concept of the methodology as a basis for the synthesis of the phenomenological methodology. It is also reflected on the possibility of developing the synthesis methodology of phenomenology and structuralism based on the synthesis methodology of phenomenology and hermeneutics developed by R. Ingarden and N. Hartmann. Synthesis methodology and new synthesis methodology have practical significance for use in many fields of humanities.

Keywords— Synthesis, universal methodology, synthesis methodology, art theory.

I. INTRODUCTION

Methodology is very important because it stimulates the creation of new knowledge as: "a branch of knowledge that studies cognitive and practical knowledge, tools, and principles related to the preliminary data of the material being studied, the approach to interpretation, and the review of established concepts from a critical perspective" (Frolova 1986, 278).

In the article, the author raised the issue of the possibility of developing innovative methods of scientific research. It is a universal humanistic methodology that synthesizes the methodologies of phenomenology and structuralism.

II. PHENOMENOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS.

Phenomenology is a stream of philosophy, which emerged at the beginning of the 20th century and has developed into a methodology of research and analysis in many fields of humanities in a short period of time. Acknowledging the set of phenomenological realities and emphasizing the role of the subject as the basis of the concept is the basis for the short-term spread of the methodology, opening the way for its evolution and enrichment.

One of the founders of modern philosophical hermeneutics H. G. Gadamer wrote: "Husserl considers the understanding of things by modus as the highest form of intellectual activity that takes place at the root of perception. Therefore, for Husserl, the hermeneutic dimension ranks second. But the first was the "living" data of things known to the "pure" senses. However, even in Husserl's careful descriptive work there was a hermeneutic tendency. He focused on "describing" the phenomenon by expanding the perspective and increasing the detail. But he did not consider how the phenomenon is related to "explanation" (Gadamer 1991, 126).

The founder and main representative of phenomenology is the German scientist E. Husserl (1859-1938). He reflected the content and methodology of phenomenology in his two-volume work "Logical Studies" published in 1900-1901. Furthermore, he strengthened and deepened his philosophy and methodology in his other works.



Philosophy Professor of the National University of Mongolia Ts. Gombosuren: "... science includes certain conditions that are not clearly explained. Because of this, at the base of all our thoughts about the world, the active nature of the subject that develops those thoughts has remained unscientific. In fact, subjective awareness of the world is definitely included in any of our thoughts, including our scientific thoughts. Therefore, in order to absorb the precision that is lacking in science, science must be filled and enriched with the results of the research of the cognitive subject. This is the goal of phenomenology," (Gombosuren 2020, 202) which accurately describes its nature.

Phenomenological methodology is an interesting and non-standard methodology that takes any phenomenon out of its context and validates it by analyzing its structure in a descriptive way. Important concepts of phenomenological methodology include ideation, reduction, and reflexivity. There are also important concepts of noesis (thinking) and noema (thinking act) developed by E. Husserl.

A noema in phenomenology is a stable combination of multiple levels of meaning to be studied and the meaning of the thing to be studied. Thus, the concept "noema" does not mean something to be studied, but the meaning (content) given to the awareness of that subject to be studied. That is why noema is also formulated as the intentional correlate (correlation) of its noesis.

The main principle of the German phenomenological existentialists is that literature and works of art are "contained" in themselves and the expression of the "perfect" human imagination. From the point of view of this concept, it can be understood that the work of art fulfils its purpose just by existing. But French thinkers such as J.-P. Sartre and M. Merleau-Ponty approached the work of art from a more conscious perspective and followed a scientific method. Husserl's belief that "Truth cannot be satisfied by the findings of empirical sciences" represents his transcendental idealist approach.

From the point of view of phenomenology, the study of art studies and philosophy of art is an "aesthetic object" that is independent of other objects and has a transcendental nature, and the structure of a work of art is its essence and the basis of its existence. So, in order to avoid excessive subjectivity, it is important to discover and analyze the structure of the artwork.

Another important feature to note is that the phenomenological methodology differs significantly from other research methodologies in that it transforms multiple meanings into a single meaning. For example, the above-mentioned hermeneutics encourages multiple branches of interpretation, internal intention, and polyvalent meaning, while the phenomenological reduction and description path aims to reach the structure of meaning and the substance, which is the immovable basis of meaning. All this is phenomenological intentionality.

III. STRUCTURAL METHODOLOGY AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS

Structuralism, based on the principles of holism and objectivism, entered the humanities strongly in the 1920s and 1960s. The structuralist approach breaks down the fundamentals of structure into the sociocultural context of internal interrelationships between structural elements, structural topology, structural sets and invariants, and



external structural functions. In doing so, it uses empirical data and many scientific theoretical methodologies such as systems theory, cybernetics, semiotics, informatics, and statistics.

Contemporary structuralism is heavily influenced by French thinkers such as Claude Lévi-Strauss, Roland Barthes, Jacques Lacan, and Michel Foucault, which spread under the influence of major philosophical movements such as neo-positivism and phenomenology. This gave rise to the French characteristic of structuralism. For example, Claude Lévi-Strauss created "structural anthropology", Jacques Lacan was a Freudian, Jacques Derrida was a post-phenomenologist, and Michel Foucault had a post-Marxist approach.

Claude Lévi-Strauss wrote about structuralist methodology in his book "Structural Anthropology": "...the object of structuralist analysis is modelling, and it is important to establish the structure of those models. The problem does not belong to ethnology, but to epistemology" (Levi-Stross 1985, 286). The methodology of structural analysis has three common steps:

1. Classification. Discovering the basic elements that make up the structure by breaking it down to its individual components,
2. Structural modelling. Establishing all possible relationships between primitive elements,
3. Assembling. Discovering of the functional principle, when reconstructing and assembling the structure.

Between the phases of this seemingly simple hierarchy, completely new knowledge of object recognition is created. That knowledge is characterized by its objective and scientific nature. And here we cannot fail to mention the following principles of Claude Lévi-Strauss's structuralism method:

1. A change in one (structural) element changes other elements,
2. Any model belongs to a family of transformations, each of which belongs to one type of model, and a set of transformations creates a group of models,
3. The above characteristics make it possible to predict the response of element changes.
4. The model should be designed to cover all usable observed processes.

IV. SYNTHESING THE METHODOLOGY OF PHENOMENOLOGY AND STRUCTURALISM

Polish philosopher R. Ingarden, a student of E. Husserl, the father of phenomenology, in his work "Studies in Aesthetics" (1957) discussed the content and structure of aesthetic phenomena in many branches of art within the framework of his teacher's epistemological teaching. For example, he divided the painting into a physical layer, a color layer, and a layer of their interrelationship between meaning and event. On the other hand, it was developed more comprehensively and systematically, while developing many ideas of R. Ingarden by the German philosopher N. Hartmann, he approached the problem from the point of view of "new ontology" and synthesized it with other philosophical currents. The basic concept of N. Hartmann's aesthetic research is the multi-layered structural system of R. Ingarden's artwork. A similar concept is the E. Husserl's modus.

The basis of the universal synthesis method of phenomenology and structuralism proposed by the author in this article is E. Husserl's modus, R. Ingarden and N. Hartmann's conceptual concept of structural horizons. The innovative aspect is that within the framework of the above concept, with the help of phenomenological and



structuralist methods, analysis is carried out within certain categories, the results are transferred to the level of meaning, and obtaining new results of complex nature.

With this method, the synthesis methodology not only considers the problem from many angles (methodologically), but also believes that it can become a universal scientific model that is close to the substance, which is the immovable basis of the structure and meaning of the subject.

V. CONCLUSION

In summary, phenomenology is the most flexible and liberating methodology for synthesis, while structuralism, on the other hand, is biased and objective in modelling. However, if these apparently contradictory methods are properly synthesized, the advantages of both are revealed, the new scientific method emerges. This methodology has theoretical and practical significance: 1st, the synthesis methodology of phenomenology and structuralism can be used in many fields of humanities, and 2nd, it has the theoretical and practical significance of developing another methodology based on phenomenology with the developed methodology.

APPENDIX

The appendix sits at the junction of the small intestine and large intestine. It's a thin tube about four inches long. Normally, the appendix sits in the lower right abdomen.

The function of the appendix is unknown. One theory is that the appendix acts as a storehouse for good bacteria, "rebooting" the digestive system after diarrheal illnesses. Other experts believe the appendix is just a useless remnant from our evolutionary past. Surgical removal of the appendix causes no observable health problems.

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