

Phenomenon of Social Adaptation in Modern Socio-Economic Changes in Society

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Abstract— The article reveals the essence of the concept of adaptation, in particular social adaptation and its context in the changing socio-economic conditions of society. The authors analyzed interdisciplinary works on the study of the phenomenon of social adaptation. This analysis showed the general integration approaches to the study of the term "adaptation" and the individuality of separate knowledge.

Keywords— adaptation, social adaptation, normative approach, interpretative approach, normative-interpretative approach, bifocal approach.

I. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of adaptation is a subject of interdisciplinary study; it occupies one of the most important places in the research of domestic and foreign sociologists, psychologists, philosophers, teachers, economists. Adaptation processes are intensively studied, but there are many ambiguities in understanding the essence of this term, the types and structure of this phenomenon, as well as the factors, which determine it. All kinds of adaptation are closely connected in real life; everything depends on the differentiation of the methods of human activity in the context of socio-economic changes in society.

Adaptation is understood as a process that allows the organism to adapt to new requirements and conditions of a changing environment. It can be psychological, physiological and biological adaptation (figure 1). In biology, adaptation means the development of some separate feature that allows a certain species to survive and reproduce. This process occurs not only in all groups of animals, but also in plants. In other words, adaptation is considered (from lat. adaptatio - adaptation) as a set of morphophysiological, behavioral, population and other features of the biological species,

providing the possibility of a specific lifestyle of individuals in certain environmental conditions, the process of developing devices. The physiological aspect of adaptation is associated with chemical processes in the organism. The study of adaptation in biological discourse, the study of the consequences of social and scientific-technical (economic) progress for human biology, including for adaptation mechanisms, are found in the works of scientists V. Y. Vereshchagin, T. G. Dichev.

II. THEORY

V. Y. Vereshchagin emphasized the philosophical aspects of the problem of biological adaptation of man in his works. He considered biological adaptation as one of the forms of harmonization of human and nature interaction in the conditions of social, scientific and technological progress [1]. The author noted that the term adaptation "...acquires the status of General science under the influence of progressive trends determined by the modern scientific and technological revolution, the growing influence of materialistic dialectics. There is philosophical generalization of unilateral definitions of the essence of adaptation and the identification of the relationship of the concept of "adaptation":

-with concepts close to it the degree of commonality;

-with philosophical categories;

-with particular scientific concepts (the norm of reaction, adaptive norm, adaptationogenesis) contribute to the development of philosophical and methodological foundations of a comprehensive study of human problems."

T. G. Dichev states that adaptation and health are given to everyone together at one's birth. This is the foundation of human life and the survival of future generations. If a person

transgresses the laws of nature, life punishes him with diseases, illnesses and suffering [2]. Todor Dichev investigated the multifaceted nature of the processes of adaptation to the norm and pathology from the point of view of the study of man from the standpoint of integral medicine and adaptation as a desire for spiritual perfection.

V.P. Petlenko's research is of particular interest. The author considered the concept of adaptation at the physiological level: "... a certain specific "pattern" can be imposed on the general "canvas" of the adaptive reaction under various influences, which is manifested not in the specific features of physiological reactions of the functional systems of the body, but mainly in the special spatial-temporal relations of the intensity of these reactions. The body's resistance to various disturbing environmental factors increases the efficiency of the energy flow and nutrient cycle, which in turn leads to complexity and greater diversity within the community, increasing the internal stability of the biological structure and improving the ability to withstand a variety of extreme conditions" [3].

Other Russian researchers of psychology (V. G. Aseev, M. P. Budyakish, T. N. Vershinina, I. K. Kryazheva, A. A.

Russalinova etc.) have been studying the adaptive capacity of the individual in his environment, they included psycho-physiological and socio-psychological components of the concept of "adaptation".

It is also interesting to study the physiological mechanisms of adaptive responses as a response to environmental disturbances that are provided by specific functional systems that are the nucleus of the centers of the nervous system and the executive organs belonging to different anatomophysiological structures (as described in the works P.K. Anokhin, A.I. Volzhin, Y. K. Subbotin and others).

Adaptation is considered in three levels in the psychological concept:

- psychophysiological (physiological reactions of the organism);
- psychological (general and situational, helps adequately respond to different environmental situations);
- social.

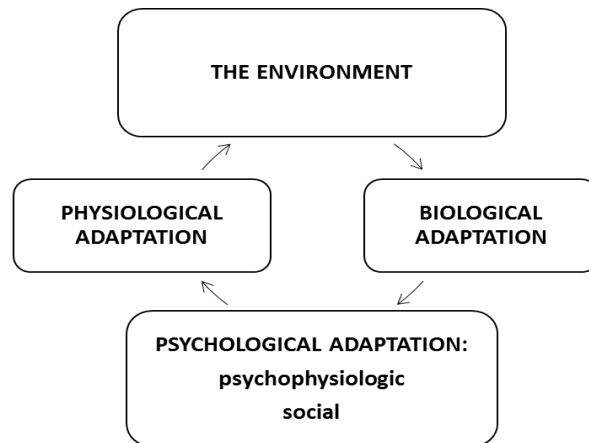


Fig. 1. Types (levels) of adaptation

Studies in the field of social adaptation are of particular interest in this work. Social adaptation is understood as a constant process and the result of an active adaptation of an individual to a new environment of life through active assimilation. Considering the concept of social adaptation, it is necessary to remember its close connection with the environment: social, socio-economic, technical. The process of social adaptation has a specific historical character.

Approaches to the study of the phenomenon of social

adaptation as an object of philosophical analysis can be divided into normative and interpretative.

The essence of the normative approach is that the individual is passive in the process of adapting it to the environment. The interpretation approach, in turn, reflects the opposite position, the individual takes on an active role in adapting to changing conditions (Figure 2).

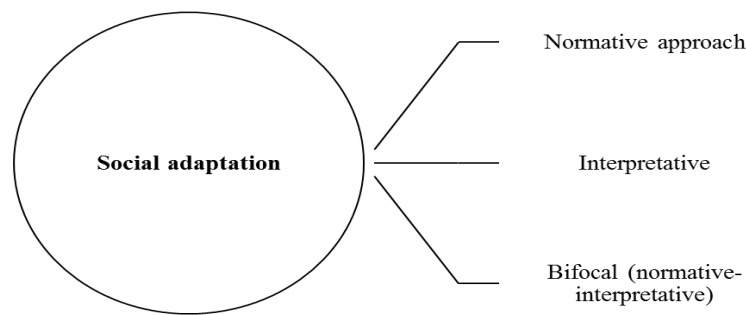


Fig. 2. Approaches to the study of social adaptation

Proceedings of T. Parsons, R.K. Merton, G. Spencer, E. Durkheim, K. Levi-Strauss are considered in the scientific community as classical works in the field of studying social adaptation. These researchers advocated a normative approach to understanding the phenomenon and the genesis of social adaptation.

Outstanding American sociologist Talcott Parsons (1902-1979) can be called the ancestor of the theory of society as a social system. The work of this researcher made a furor in the society in the 1950-1960's, and till now his works deserve close attention of scientists of the present time. T. Parsons paid special attention to the problem of social order in his researches. Parsons viewed society as a social system and argued that any social system should meet four basic functional requirements. He argued that this is one of the four functional conditions that all social systems must meet in order to survive [4]. T. Parsons believed that the need for adaptation is met through the development of a specialized subsystem - the economy in industrial societies. Based on his understanding, adaptation is a trajectory by which the social system "controls its environment". T. Parsons focused on three social processes in the theory of society, one of which is declared - adaptive reorganization. In other words, the organization's ability to adapt to conditions, to realize values in connection with changes in the progressive nature that take place in the social system. T. Parsons in his works emphasized the natural nature of the adaptation process. This process provided for "the assimilation of the individual certain regulatory structures, symbols of culture, which contributes to the introduction of the individual to modern knowledge". Adaptive levers are required to ensure the individual's adequacy and social need, especially in his various spheres of life.

The concept of adaptation was one of the important research fields of such famous scientist, outstanding sociologist as R. Merton [5]. Merton's research can be attributed to a scientific school that supports a normative approach. Merton focuses the attention of the scientific community on the fact that the general rules and role-playing behavior is impossible in modern society. Merton passes the concept of «normative structure» through the prism of the relationship between

norms, values and institutional arrangements. He mentions that the individual is forced to adapt by any means available to it with any changes. And not the fact that the chosen goals and means will coincide with the socially approved goals and methods. Based on this confrontation, adaptation looks justified from the individual's point of view, and from the point of view of society it can be regarded as a deviation from the norm. Merton notes the fact that in order to reveal the essence of adaptation, in addition to studying the norms, goals and values, it is necessary to analyze the possibilities of their implementation.

The followers of the normative approach of the modern era of social development were concerned with the issue of studying the essence of social adaptation. The normative school of social adaptation research can include works that consider adaptation from the perspective of a systematic approach. This is presented in studies of A.A. Nalchadjan, A. B. Mudrik, N. I. Andreenkova, L. I. Antsiferova, S. S. Batenin, M. I. Bobneva, L. P. Buyeva, L. D. Demina, V. P. Kuzmina, V. A. Markov, A. T. Moskalenko, V. P. Petrov, H. F. Sabirov, etc. Such scientists as G. Bloomer, M. Weber, E. Fromm, J. G. Mead, W. A. Thomas, B. Bernstein, T. Lukman adhered to an interpretative approach to the study of the essence of social adaptation. The interpretative approach goes back to classical philosophical hermeneutics. The main paradigm of the interpretative approach in modern sociology is a "cultural model of text interpretation, considered as a unified methodology of Humanities". From this point of view, all forms of human activity can be represented as a set of symbols. The interpreting paradigm is based on the statement that the subject and methods of natural and social sciences are fundamentally different. In this regard, there is a need to shift the focus of the study to an understanding of the subjective world of actors, their motives and relationships.

In his writings, Merton showed that the relationship between "social norms, roles, statuses, values and institutional arrangements" may be different consistency-inconsistency, varying within the broadest limits, moreover, may be conflict. In the types of individual adaptation to structural anomie, Merton introduced a classification that was based on the distinction of values prescribed by culture and norms. Based

on his idea, the individual makes a decision: to accept or reject values, to take into account the norms or to neglect them, in the process of social adaptation.

Such researchers as X. Abels, J. Baudrijar, R. F. Abdeev, V. L. Altukhov, V. E. Kemerov, L. V. Korel, E. T. Resnick, M. V. Romm, L. L. Shpak, E. R. Yarskaya-Smirnova and others, propose to consider social adaptation from the point of view of the integration of normative and interpretative vector research is an normative-interpretative approach (the bifocal approach).

The particular importance among the domestic papers of philosophical Sciences in the study of social adaptation is the research of M. V. Romm, who systematically described the patterns, the techniques, the ways of adaptation of the individual in society, and also proposed a new methodological approach to its study: normative-interpretative (biblically) [6].

A number of scientific works in the field of research of the phenomenon of social adaptation apply the activity approach. The concept of "activity approach" is used in two concepts. The first approach is under the active approach refers to the methodological direction of the research, which was based on the category of subject activity (B. G. Ananiev, L. S. Vygotsky, A. N. Leontiev, A. R. Luria, V. N. Myasishchev, S. Rubinstein, D. B. Elkonin). The second - "activity approach" is a theory that considers psychology as a science of generation, functioning and structure of mental reflection in the processes of individual activity (A. N. Leontiev).

From these positions, the activity is a dynamic, self-developing hierarchical system of interactions of the subject with the world, in the process of which there is a generation of mental image, its embodiment in the object, the implementation and transformation of the relations of the subject mediated by the mental image in the subject reality. The activity approach in philosophy is understood as a concept that gives activity a more fundamental ontological status than a statement of the existence of individual objects-things. Activity from the point of view of philosophy is a special way of the individual's attitude to the world – "subject activity" and is a process «in which a person reproduces and creatively transforms nature, thus making himself an active subject, and the phenomena of nature mastered by him-the object of his activity». This indicates the emergence of an adaptive mechanism of human attitude to reality. It is based on his ability to adapt to the environment and change it for themselves.

Mentioning the activity approach, we speak about the material and spiritual adaptive activity of the person, which reflects the diversity of information processes and interactions. The essence of this approach is that the activity is the main mechanism of adaptive interaction of the individual with the environment. Material and spiritual activity of an individual act as an adaptive social context in which a variety of real and potential adaptive strategies used by the adapting subject in practice arises and realized. The main principles of the activity approach, which determine the methodological basis of the analysis of the social adaptation process of the individual, include:

- the principle of development and historicism;
- the principle of objectivity;
- the principle of activity;
- the principle of interiorization-exteriorization as mechanisms of assimilation of social and historical experience;
- the principle of unity of the structure of external and internal activity;
- the principle of system analysis of the psyche [7].

The process of social adaptation includes the process of entering a person into a new volatile social environment for him, which is not always ready to accept him positively. The problem of successful adaptation is always acute in front of man. Structural and functional consideration of Vygotsky, the basis of the structure of the activity is the principle of analysis "by units", in which one or another reality is decomposed into "units", containing the basic properties inherent in this reality as a whole [8]. Hierarchical relationships between units of activity are mobile.

Analyzing the approaches to the study of the phenomenon of social adaptation, we have received the following "palette" of data about scientists, followers of a school (table 1).

Social adaptation of the individual is considered:

- as an active influence of the individual on the social environment and his desire for change in an outdated regulatory order;
- as a passive (conformal) perception of the goals and values of the group, the environment.

TABLE I. APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF SOCIAL ADAPTATION

№	The name of the approach	Research scientists
1	Normative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. Parsons, R. K. Merton, G. Spencer, E. Durkheim, C. Levi-Strauss. A. A. Nalchadzhyan, A. V., Mudrik, N. In. Andreenkova, L. I. Antsiferova, S. S. Batenin, M. I. Bobnev, L. P. Bueva, D. L. Demin, V. P. Kuzmin, V. A. Markov, A. T. Moskalenko, V. Petrov, H. F. Sabirov, etc.
2	Interpretative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Bloomer, M. Weber, E. Fromm, J.G. Meade, W. A. Thomas, B. Bernstein, T. Lukman.
3	Normative-interpretative (bifocal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Bodrijar, R. F. Abdeev, V. L. Altukhov, V. E. Kemerov, L. V. Kaurel, E. T., Resnick, M. V. Romm, L. L. Shpak, E. R. Yarskaya-Smirnova, Abels etc.
4	Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. G. Ananiev, L. S. Vygotsky, A. N. Leontiev, A. R. Luria, V. N. Myasishchev, S. Rubinstein, D. B. Elkonin

The driving force to the beginning of the process of social adaptation is more often the process of awareness by the individual or social group of the fact that previously learned behaviors cease to "work" to achieve success. There is a clear need for restructuring behavior in accordance with the norms of new social conditions or updated for the individual social environment. In science, it is accepted to allocate four stages of the personality adaptation in the social environment updated for it [9]:

- the initial stage, when an individual or group is aware of how they should behave in a new social environment, but is not yet ready to recognize and accept the value system of the new environment and strive to adhere to the old value system;
- a stage of tolerance where the individual, the group and the new environment show mutual tolerance for each other's value systems and patterns of behaviour;
- accommodation, that is, recognition and acceptance

by the individual of the basic elements of the value system of the new environment, while recognizing some of the values of the individual, the group of the new social environment;

- assimilation, i.e. the complete coincidence of the value systems of the individual, group and environment.

High social status of an individual in this environment, as well as psychological satisfaction of an individual with this social environment are indicators of successful social adaptation. The success of social adaptation depends on the parameters, the individual and the environment. It is difficult for an individual to adapt because of the diversity of the new environment and the speed of changes in the environment. The most important for social adaptation are the characteristics of the individual-education and age.

It is necessary to mention the factors of adaptation (table 2) [5].

TABLE II. THE FACTORS OF ADAPTATION

№	Name of factor	Essence
1	Natural factors	weather and climate conditions, the geographical location, the occurrence of disasters
2	Material factors	objects of the outside world, which a person is forced to be able to use. For example, clothes, trees, land, cars, etc.
3	Social factors	activities and relationships between people
4	Technogenic factors	factors which are a side effect of human activities: landfills, garbage, air pollution, etc.

Each individual has its own rhythm, speed, pace of adaptation. Personal adaptability is influenced by the factors, specified in the table (table 3).

TABLE III. ADAPTATION FACTORS

№	Name of factor	Type
1	Subjective factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic • Psychophysiologic
2	Environmental factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumstances and conditions of life. • The circumstances of the social environment. • Mode and nature of operation.

III. CONCLUSION

Social adaptation of a person is one of the important levers that allows an individual to "survive" in the conditions of constant changes in society. The polyvariability of these changes is closely related to the instability of the human environment. Social and economic conditions are changing; the individual is forced to adapt to the changed circumstances. The question of the study of this phenomenon is still not closed; there are many bright spots on the ontological and theoretical-methodological space of the study of this concept, the integrative ability of the theory of adaptation and theory of networks, network communication is not fully clarified. This is a promising vector of interdisciplinary research.

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