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Pluralism of Interpretations of the Concept of Security in Socio-Humane Sciences

The article analyzes the variants of interpretations of the notion of security in such social and humanitarian sciences as sociological, political, economic, psychological and some others, makes their comparative analysis on the basis of which we revealed common and distinct features between them, analyzed the reasons and factors that make the feasibility of both general and special for related sciences and peculiar for each of them. It is emphasized that the plurality of interpretations of the notion of security in social sciences and humanities is due to: the objective complexity of security as a phenomenon of reality; its connections with various natural, technical, social phenomena and processes; peculiarities of comprehension of the notion of security in various social sciences and humanities; the problems of forming both an interdisciplinary definition of it, and a general understanding within the boundaries of individual sciences. In the field of sociological sciences, most scholars tend to interpret social security in the context of development and stability of social life. As a basis for specific definitions of social security, as in philosophy, such options for interpreting security as feature, state, activity, protection, etc. are used. Unlike sociological sciences, for political science more inherent is not the formation of a general concept of political security, but comprehension of political aspects of security problems of various internal and external spheres of social life of Ukraine, other states, international and European institutions. In economic sciences, the general concept of "economic security" is also formed on the basis of interdisciplinary concepts of "security", but with their adaptation to the peculiarities of both the economic sphere of social life and economic science itself. In addition, the article outlines the main directions of research in the sciences of state administration, national security, and others.

Keywords: security; social security; political security; economic security; psychological safety; provision of security; threats.

Problem statement. The scientific understanding of security issues has been made in the works of representatives of various sciences.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The following sociologists, such as P. Antonyuk, H. Savranska, R. Podlypna and others, carried out the study of the problems of social aspects of security, social security, security of society, individual, and nation. Within the political sciences, security was the subject of study by such scholars as D. Balanyuk, O. Kravchuk, M. Orel and others. In the field of economics L. Abalkina, A. Gorodetsky, K. Ippolitov, O. Lepikhov, V. Tretyak and others devoted their works to the

problems of economic security, financial security, banking security and others. In the areas of psychological, linguistic, demographic and other sciences the problems of security were scrutinized by the following scientists: G. Verbina, O. Voykunsky, O. Gritsenko. However, this disciplinary variety of interpretations of the notion of security requires additional comprehension in the context of finding out the general and special in such interpretations of security.

The aim of the article – to analyze variants of interpretations of the notion of security in such social and humanitarian sciences as sociological, political, economic, psychological and some others; to carry out their comparative analysis on the basis of which to reveal the common and distinct between them; to find out the reasons and factors that determine the feasibility of both general and special for related sciences and peculiar to each of them.

Presenting main material. The existence of any sovereign state is impossible without the protection of its national interests, which is the basic, fundamental condition for guaranteeing self-preservation and progressive development of society in conditions of saving national identity. At the present stage of the domestic statehood development, the diversification of threats and challenges to people, the state and society has led not only to the intensification of the problems of national security, but also caused a significant transformation of its content, which led to actualization of the scientific comprehension of the problems of understanding security, its provision, definition of the direction of state policy to guarantee the security of interests, rights and freedoms of a human and a citizen that are vital for state, society and individual. The issue of security is a subject of scientific research by many social and humanitarian sciences, in particular: sociology, political science, economics, and others.

Sociological sciences have the most ancient tradition of studying the problems of security. «The need to protect the state was specified by Socrates, and J. Rousseau in his treatise “On Social Contract” emphasized that care for self-preservation and security is the most important”» [1, p. 20]. Actually, social security issues were investigated by the founder of sociology Auguste Comte in the context of harmonization of society and achieving stability; Herbert Spencer drew attention not only to balance, harmony and stability in society, but also to such opposed processes as disintegration of society, regression, disharmony, degradation; J. Mill justified as an interest of the highest rank, the provision of which he saw in the continuous monitoring of social relations [2].

In the western sociology of the XX century several conceptualizations of understanding of social security were formed, in particular, in the aspect of: public consent and management of its provision by social experts (E. Durkheim); realization of basic social needs by social institutes and overcoming of disfunctional states (R. Merton); the concept of «scientific management» aimed at balancing the interests of the subject and object of management (F. Taylor); organization of management as a «rational tool» to achieve the set goals (R. Emerson); the significance of socio-cultural factors for the historical development of social situations and facts (M. Weber); the development of the post-industrial and informational society (P. Bourdieu, T. Parsons, K. Popper, etc.). On the basis of these theoretical and sociological ideas, a modern understanding of social security as, foremost, a state of society in which its systemic characteristics are preserved and developed has emerged [2; 3]. Although security research has not developed in its separate direction in western sociology, these and other theoretical and methodological sociological approaches to the understanding of security have a number of universal provisions for its scientific comprehension, relevant for interdisciplinary research that addresses issues of risk, social security, risk management, sustainable development, as well as social protection and social responsibility [4]. Alongside, in the sociological sciences of the post-Soviet countries, sociology of security as one of the branch sociologies has begun to develop lately [5; 6].

The problems of security in various contexts were being solved in numerous modern domestic sociological researches, which led to the need for their generalization, and this was done in the works by I. Dubrovsky, O. Guzhva, I. Kosulia, V. Nikolaevsky, R. Pidlypna, M. Tymoshchuk and other scholars who offered different variants of such systematization and ways of forming a general sociological understanding of security. So, Tymoshchuk M. believes that «the differentiation of such types of security as political, economic, ecological, informational requires to identify a “generalizing” type of security», which «is a social security that acts as a reliable security of vital interests of social subjects (macro- and micro levels), preservation and development of human potential, life support systems for people, unchanging values of their lifestyle, moral behavior and activities» [2, p. 55–57]. Pidlypna R.P., based on a comparative analysis of social security definitions, concludes that «approaches to understanding the essence of social security can be grouped in two main directions: static (traditional) and consequential» [7, p. 277]. In the first case, social security is

understood as «a certain state of protection of the social interests of a person and society in a broad and narrow sense» [7, p. 277], and in the second one – «as a certain state of equilibrium in society, but also as a consequence of a number of actions by the state, that is, a set of measures to ensure social interests and social needs of citizens» [7, p. 277–278]. On the basis of the synthesis of these approaches, the author proposes the following definition: «social security – is the protection of vital interests of man, citizen, society; timely detection, prevention and neutralization of threats to national interests in the social sphere, which provides an adequate standard of living of the population, expanded reproduction, human development and social progress in society» [7, p. 278].

In sociological literature it is noted that it is expedient to systematize definitions of social security from the following points of view: its hierarchical structure based on social security of regions and separate territories («vertical» aspect); a functional structure that encompasses labor potential, the social sphere, labor market and employment of population, migration security («horizontal» aspect); the degree of protection of vital interests of social units at the macro and micro levels, in particular, human potential, stimulation of their activity and livelihoods («external economic» aspect); ensuring social security as a solution to the problem of the shadow economy, corruption, etc. («Monistic» aspect) [8; 9].

On the basis of a comparative analysis of modern definitions of social security H. Savranska makes the following conclusion: «the most common are six approaches to defining this concept: official, axiological, naturalistic, systemical, organizational and institutional» [10, p. 67] and believes that «the most universal and logically justifiable one is still an institutional approach. The institutional understanding of social security actually includes other interpretations and allows to remove the inherent flaws and contradictions» [10, p. 67–68].

Thus, we can state that in the understanding of social security there is a pluralism of approaches by scientists, as well as offers for the formation of its general sociological understanding. Most scholars tend to interpret social security in the context of the development and stability of social life. As a basis for specific definitions of social security, as in philosophy, such options for interpreting security as feature, state, activity, protection, etc. are used. Thus, it is emphasized that their key element is the threat as an essential characteristic, and the variants are the feature of a social system built on the principles of stability, self-regulation and integrity, and its ability to maintain its basic characteristics in

conditions of probable or targeted destructive influence from the outside or within the system itself, therefore the question of social security «not as a complex of protective or defensive actions, but as the features of social systems, their preparedness for danger and the ability to use potential risk as a permanent factor of mobilization to ensure the stability and integrity, without which qualitative development is impossible», is becoming a matter of principle [3, p. 184].

Moreover, these variants of the interpretation of security (feature, state, activity, protection, etc.) are not analyzed, seem to be taken for granted, but those security features are specified that reflect the originality of sociology itself, in particular, its subject of research and subject knowledge (theories, concepts, etc.), as well as features of methodological approaches to studying social reality and building sociological knowledge.

The desire to distinguish such branch sociology as sociology of security should be emphasized as a direction of generalization of specialized sociological studies of security.

That is, the sociological vision of security is similar to the philosophical and interdisciplinary interpretation of security – recognition of the plurality of insights in specific studies and the orientation towards the formation of a general sociological understanding, but again in different ways. The attempts of sociologists to spread their understanding onto all other sciences related to this block of sciences – political science, economics, etc. should be emphasized.

The political understanding of security in its general approaches is based on the tradition of philosophical and other areas of study of security, in particular, a large part of political sciences research is carried out through the prism of the notion of «threats», taking into account their features in accordance with the subject and direction of political sciences research. Likewise sociological research, political security is interpreted as: the feature of the political system, the condition of the state, the condition of the political system, the circumstances for their existence, etc. For example, «the political security of Ukraine is a certain condition, internal feature, the most important attributive characteristic, a necessary circumstance for the existence and functioning of the political system and the whole society, interconnection, interaction and the ratio of the whole set of factors that ensure their preservation, protection, functioning, development and improvement in unfavorable conditions» [11]. However, unlike in sociology, there is almost no desire to form a general political science understanding of political security in these sciences, emphasizing that «political security as a scientific category of political

science is a kind of component of national security, but the political science category “security” itself has been imported into political science from related branches of social sciences – on the one hand, from international political science (where the category of “security” along with the category “national interest” occupies a central place), and on the other hand – from military science» [7, p. 26; 12, p. 72], it is noted that in modern Ukrainian political science the standard approach to the understanding of the essence of political security has not been still developed [13, p. 32].

The main body of political sciences research is focused on the study of the political aspects of social phenomena and processes, such as: terrorism, determinants of the modern political process, interethnic conflicts, national identity, threats to Ukraine’s national security, protection of a person, geopolitical processes, social self-organization, environmental and information security, migration politics and others.

A separate direction consists of the scientific research of the security dimension of foreign policy of both Ukraine and other countries, international cooperation, activities of international and European organizations.

Thus, summing up, it should be noted that, unlike sociological sciences, at least as yet, not the formation of a general political science concept of political security, but the comprehension of the political aspects of security problems of various internal and external spheres of social life of Ukraine, other states, international and European institutions is intrinsic to political science. The basis of such studies are either the options of interdisciplinary understanding of security or its interpretation, which are inherent in other sciences, but both in the first and in the second case, they are given a political coloration due to the peculiarities of political science as a science.

In the field of economic sciences, taking into account their plurality and peculiarity, there is an orientation towards the formation of a general for these sciences notion of economic security [14; 15], its individual aspects, the relationship with social security, and the differentiation of its various types, such as food safety, consumer safety, and others. In the formation of a general understanding of economic security, the emphasis, as in other sciences, is on «lack of danger», «preservation», «protection against threats», «security», «reliability», «stability», «calmness», «independence», «admissibility of boundaries» and other variants of interdisciplinary understanding and philosophical vision of its essence [16].

One of the approaches to the formation of the general notion of economic security is its development based on qualitative features of

the economy and economic relations, and not on the general notion of security, although in this case, economic security is still determined through the condition of economic entities, their development, etc. – «economic security is such condition of entities of all levels of the economy, which ensures their balanced development on the basis of control over the condition and use of all kinds of resources in order to increase them» [17].

Thus, the general concept of «economic security» is formed predominantly on the basis of interdisciplinary concepts of «security», but with their adaptation to the peculiarities of both the economic sphere of social life and economic science itself. The peculiarity of both sociological and economic vision of security should include the prevalence of their quantitative measurements.

In the sciences of public administration, security is studied in the context of national security and its constituents ensured by the state, which are considered as a special sphere, object, task, purpose of state administration, etc., and, accordingly, emphasis is placed on the characteristics of this type of government, but at the same time, the comprehension of public administration security itself has not become widespread.

A well-known national researcher of these problems G. Sytnyk believes that «state administration of national security is a specific type and integral part of public administration that encompasses the social, economic, humanitarian, military and political spheres of society's life and is a targeted activity of the subjects of ensuring national security» [18].

Such position of scientists is also observed in other similar studies, which consider the peculiarities of public administration (provision, regulation) in the areas of border, information, economic, food, environmental, social, financial, natural-technological, transport, energy, religious security, health protection, human security, and so on.

Unlike other social and humanitarian sciences in the sciences of public administration, security is primarily regarded as state activity concerning its provision, and the active approach is the most dominant one, which is explained by the very subject of science – state administration.

In Ukraine, there is a separate group of sciences, the subject of which is national security, and its research has an interdisciplinary character, for example, the protection of qualification studies is carried out in such sciences as technical, political science, law, and others. In other words, their direct object is precisely national security, and its research is carried out comprehensively, with

application of subject knowledge and methodology from various sciences or have an interdisciplinary nature.

Within these sciences, the research was aimed at studying the problems of national security in the context of: European collective security, anti-terrorist activities, military-technical cooperation, information wars, European integration processes, internal political security and other issues.

Meanwhile, some studies directly address the theory of national security [19], its aspects [20] and system configurations [1].

Other socio-humanities have the same «picture» of approaches to understanding security. Thus, in psychological sciences, security is studied within the scientific field of the psychology of a social subject as its state of consciousness, the psychic state or state of their protection, the fundamental human need, in linguistic sciences as an element of national, information security in the context of national identity, problems of language development etc.

Conclusion. The plurality of interpretations of the concept of security in social sciences and humanities is due to: the objective complexity of security as a phenomenon of reality; its connections with various natural, technical, social phenomena and processes; peculiarities of comprehension of the notion of security in various social sciences and humanities; the problems of forming both its interdisciplinary definition, and its general understanding within the boundaries of individual sciences.

In this context, security is understood as: a social phenomenon; attribute of object and subject; state of the object, eliminating the presence or possibility of occurrence of dangerous events and their adverse consequences; its feature or criterion of the social system quality; conditions of activity; system of measures providing protection of the object from dangerous influences; social goal expressed through a set of internal links of the system and aimed at its steady and progressive development; activities of authorized state bodies and other entities.

The study of this pluralism, common and distinct in interpretations of the notion of security is important for the formation of an appropriate understanding in the legal sciences, since it makes it possible to find a general, special and peculiar within the correlation of not only legal and other social and human sciences, but also in the ratio of different legal sciences, in particular its general theoretical vision in the general theory of law. And also in relation to the normative and legal definition of security in the legislation. However, the solution to this problem is not the purpose of this article and needs further legal research.

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Плюралізм інтерпретацій поняття безпеки в соціально-гуманітарних науках

Розглянуто варіанти інтерпретацій поняття безпеки в таких соціально-гуманітарних науках, як соціологічні, політичні, економічні, психологічні та деяких інших, здійснено їх порівняльний аналіз, на підставі чого виявлено загальне та відмінне між ними, з'ясовано причини і фактори, що зумовлюють доцільність як загального, так й особливого для споріднених наук та своєрідного для кожної з них. Визначено, що плюралізм інтерпретацій поняття безпеки в соціально-гуманітарних науках зумовлений: об'єктивною складністю безпеки як феномену дійсності; її зв'язками з різними природничими, технічними, соціальними явищами та процесами; особливостями осмислення поняття «безпека» в різних соціально-гуманітарних науках; проблемами формування як міждисциплінарного його визначення, так і загального тлумачення в межах окремих наук. У сфері соціологічних наук більшість учених тяжіє до інтерпретації соціальної безпеки в контексті розвитку і стабільності соціального життя. Підґрунтям для конкретних дефініцій

соціальної безпеки є такі варіанти трактування безпеки, як властивість, стан, діяльність, захищеність тощо. На відміну від соціологічних наук, для політології переважно притаманно не формування загальнополітологічного поняття політичної безпеки, а осмислення політичних аспектів безпекових проблем різних внутрішніх і зовнішніх сфер суспільного життя України, інших держав, міжнародних та європейських інституцій. В економічних науках загальне поняття «економічна безпека» також сформовано на підставі міждисциплінарних визначень безпеки, адаптованих до особливостей як економічної сфери суспільного життя, так і власне економічної науки. У статті окреслено основні напрями досліджень у науках державного управління, національної безпеки тощо.

Ключові слова: безпека; соціальна безпека; політична безпека; економічна безпека; психологічна безпека; забезпечення безпеки; загрози.