

The Hypothetic Deductive Approach as a Proposed Method in Social Psychology

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Abstract

This article briefly sheds light on the nature of social psychology and its basic problem as a specialty, or its distinctive subject of study and its importance. It then reviews the possible methods of research and study in it through the several topics it deals with, and gives a number of examples.

Then it moves on to suggest adding a research method that is complementary or parallel to what is being used, and gives a number of examples of its treatment, and the measurement it adds and its importance.

Keywords: social psychology, social psychology methodology, hypothetic deductive method in social psychology

1. The Field of Social Psychology

Social psychology studies the behavior of individuals and groups and their relationship with each other; It studies the extent to which an individual's behavior is influenced by others, whether an individual or a group, and studies social relations and the variables that result from them, such as the formation of attitudes and values, the formation of leadership, and so on. All of this is with the aim of achieving peace in human society and resolving disputes and conflicts, by using scientific methods to understand human behavior when it meets with others.

2. History of Social Psychology

Since ancient times, the human mind has been preoccupied with thought and philosophy, and perhaps what preoccupies man most is human existence itself, in the sense of his attempts to

understand himself and others.

Returning to recorded history in this regard, we find it starting with Greek philosophers, such as Plato, who mentioned in his book *The Republic* that the state arises because the individual cannot depend on himself, so he needs the help of others, and from here he views the phenomenon of society as a natural phenomenon; It arises from the inability of the individual to fulfill his needs on his own. (Mahmoud Al-Sayid Abu Al-Nil, 2009:81).

As for Aristotle, he believed that the drive to gather among humans is an instinctive drive, starting with the family, whose unity he saw as the strongest thing. From the family, cities and villages are formed, and their function is to provide livelihoods; in order for individuals to achieve their happiness. (Mahmoud Al-Sayid Abu Al-Nil, 2009:83).

From ancient times to the Middle Ages, other scientists and thinkers, such as Adam Smith, observed the phenomenon of compassion for others, and Ibn Sina, one of the Arab scientists, observed how the social behavior of others could cause psychosomatic disorders such as feelings of guilt and self-disorder, which negatively affects the general health of the individual. (Mahmoud Al-Sayid Abu Al-Nil, 2009:99).

After World War II, studies and research on the behavior of individuals and groups by social psychologists increased.

3. The Importance of Social Psychology and Its Study Topics

There is no doubt that social psychology is of great importance to everyone, as everyone is affected by society and influences it. Each of us needs to understand himself and others in any social interaction, whether this is at the level of family, work, study, or even temporary interaction in shopping and daily public dealings, because this understanding will help everyone to act more appropriately in various situations, hence the importance of knowledge of this science for the specialist and the ordinary non-specialist in his daily life.

Therefore, the topics of study in social psychology include the study of what is called social cognition that includes topics such as social perception, the study of social interaction and social relations, the study of socialization and group standards, and some topics related to the group as leadership and socialization such as values, trends, beliefs and traditions, and finally the study of public opinion and rumors.

4. Methodologies in Social Psychology

The word research method refers to the objective scientific method that the researcher investigates in order to find a solution to a problem and try to understand something mysterious in the social phenomenon.

If we want to simplify or define the factors involved or constituting the social phenomenon, they are divided into exactly three factors, which are: factors related to the first party of the interaction, either an individual or a group with all its characteristics and components, and factors related to the other party in the interaction as well, an individual or group, with all its characteristics, and its components, finally intermediate factors that act as direct and

indirect changes, or variables in the interaction environment.

The research methods currently used in social psychology include:

The descriptive approach, which is concerned with studying the social phenomenon or problem by testing its basic unit and identifying its vocabulary in order to diagnose it accurately, social psychological measures as well as statistics, may be used in this.

The historical approach: is used to make comparisons between different systems and cultures and the developments that occurred in their network of relationships.

The comparative approach: studies the differences in the same society and in different societies, such as comparing social systems, psychological trends, and personality types.

The experimental method: is used when the researcher conducts an experiment in which he intervenes with the independent variable in order to bring about a change in it to demonstrate its effect on the dependent variable.

The subjective approach: is based on the individual observations of the researcher and cannot be applied to groups, but only to individuals.

The tracking approach: is based on tracking the various developments that occur in the lives of individuals and societies over a specific period of time that may reach weeks, months, or extend for years.
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5. The Proposed Methodology

The proposed method to be added to the previous methodologies, in parallel with them is the hypothetic-deductive approach. It begins with hypotheses derived from facts, experiments, or observations, and then a deductive logical process is conducted on them in which mathematics may be used as a tool for analysis. (Maher Abdel Qader Muhammad, 1985, 339).

Mathematical deduction is characterized by generalization, that is, the transition from the specific to the general. According to logicians such as Bacon and Mill, the scientist collects information about the phenomenon that is the subject of research and study, tracks the aspects in which the phenomenon appears, the aspects in which the phenomenon disappears, and the

cases in which the phenomenon varies with increases and decreases, and then analyzes. These lists are used to find out what the proportions of the phenomenon under study indicate, and finally he identifies the phenomenon and names it, meaning to give it an explanation, and the reason, meaning the cause, meaning the reason for its occurrence. (Heba Al-Sayid Muhammad Al-Ganaini, 2017: 292).

That is, in deduction or what is called logical analogy, there is a hypothesis first, then a theoretical introduction second, and then a conclusion based on logic and evidence third and last. This is known as the deductive or deductive method in scientific research.

This method is distinguished from previous methods in that it relies on mathematical logical analogy, which attempts to depersonalize as much as possible, whether for the researcher or the subjects. Even in experimental or descriptive methods when using social psychological measures, we find that they are influenced to a degree by the person of their author on the one hand and the person of the respondent on the other hand. Therefore, some methods for measuring the validity and reliability of these measures depend on re-application to compare the results in different conditions, although this is difficult in practice by re-gathering the subjects as they are again.

As for the method of the hypothetical-deductive-mathematical approach, it is closer to the purely abstract, logical-mathematical rational analogy, as it moves from one fact to another, imposes null or alternative hypotheses, and tests them from the ground of reality and what is.

Let us take an example of an educational, psychological, and social problem, which is the problem of dropping out of education and its relationship to some personal and demographic variables.

According to this approach, the researcher will determine a hypothesis from examining what exists in reality, then he will track the cases of educational dropout and the factors present with them and those absent from them in the process of qualitative and digital monitoring of reality, and he will address his hypothesis, for example, about the form or mechanism of this dropout process by tracking the dropout rates in another, let's say three years, and then formulates a predictive equation about what

might happen and what the form of educational dropout might be like five years from now.

With this proposed vision, I believe that this approach will refine social psychological science in its study mechanism so that it develops into the ranks of basic sciences such as physics and pure mathematics, so that it is as far away from personalization as possible.

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Websites:

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