

REPORTS

Scientific Conference in Poland: Educational Studies carried out within positivist and neo positivist paradigms. Conceptual Frameworks – Research – Results

Several years ago the Department of Elementary School Education and Media Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education, University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland, started the tradition of organizing scientific conferences in the cycle: “Variety of methodological approaches in educational sciences“, in which apart from national experts also the guests from abroad take part. As the title of the conference cycle suggests, their primary focus is on actual issues in methodologies of educational sciences.

An idea to solve methodological questions of educational sciences in a broader scientific background is connected with a lot of views on current research not only in pedagogy but also in other social sciences. The meeting of experts should contribute towards finding such methodological approaches which confirm legitimacy of results and findings in this field, they bring new perspectives on diapasons of research methods and they have become significant international forum for exchange of experience.

The first conference was held in November 2015 (Katowice – Ustron, 9-10 November). Participants’ attention was focused on the topics in the context of the scientific title of the event – “Methodological analysis of research frameworks in the field of primary education and media pedagogy.“

In 2016, the conference titled “Actual tendencies in projecting quantitative and qualitative studies, or mixed research and the result analysis“ was organized in the framework of this conference cycle.“

Stanislaw Juszcyk as the leading scientific guarantor of the third conference, altogether with his scientific team decided to focus the attention to the methodological essence of positivist and neopositivist research on the background of current determinants of educational theory and practice. In the field of the above mentioned issues, the participants worked in two main sections apart from the plenary ones. In those, according to the notified interest of organisers, the scientific discursus was directed towards the fields such as:

- Frameworks, projecting and realizing research within positivist and neopositivist paradigms, or the studies using both paradigms
- Questions of practical experience with research (its drawbacks, limits and deficiencies of research studies
- Relationships among a researcher and the examined in empirical studies as well as their methodological consequences
- Possible variations in interpretation of research findings, criteria and dilemmas in their publishing

- Framework research in social pedagogy, special pedagogy, pre-primary and primary pedagogy, as well as the media pedagogy.

Talks of this conference were held on the 7th and 8th of December 2017 at the Centre of scientific information and academic library, at University of Silesia in Katowice under the auspices of Andrzej Kowalczyk - the rector of the University of Silesia, and Marcin Krupa - the president of Katowice town . After welcoming the participants of the conference by the dean of the Faculty of pedagogy and psychology of the University of Silesia, and the head of the Department of Elementary School Education and Media Pedagogy S. Juszczyk, as well as the representatives of the university management and Katowice town, the participants talks started firstly in the plenary of the conference and after that in the sections. After performances of the main plenary speakers, the topics connected with the research in the times of modern electronic media, interconnecting quantitative and qualitative approaches in the methodology of educational studies, application of different research methods and analysis of their results, interdisciplinary approaches in the research, research competencies of pedagogues and student preparations for research realization, action research of teachers, etc. were discussed. Working atmosphere in the plenary hall creating the space for very inspiring discussions after the given lectures was a significant sign of this conference. The same applied also for the work in individual sessions.

The author of this report as a foreign participant positively evaluates the age groups involved and working arrangements of the conference participants and its speakers. Experienced researchers and university pedagogues as well as from other research institutions such as novice researchers or PhD students found there their place. The research and science are built on generation learning, overlapping different scientific schools, and everything was covered by this conference. Moreover, also the premises of the Centre of Scientific Information and Academic Library of the University of Silesia in Katowice as a place for talks, underlined the ethos of the conference.

In terms of conclusions of the third methodological conference in Katowice, the intentions of scientific guarantors as well as the participants' interest, we can assume that the organizing team have been already preparing conditions for another conference from the cycle: "Variety of Methodological Approaches in Educational Sciences". We believe that it will be as successful as the previous ones.

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