
COCTA NEWS

COCTA has taken the initiative of a number of conceptual and linguistic analyses of social science concepts. Let me just mention a few: ethnicity, growth and power. COCTA has tried to promote the work on the methodology of conceptual and linguistic analysis as in the Giovanni Sartori basic semantic model and Fred W. Riggs' ana-semantic (or onomantic) model. Time has come to do more work on concepts of *development*, a truly interdisciplinary concept in the social sciences (see the INTERCOCTA Report below). The concept of development presents a variety of problems that have to be faced – meaning, measurement and values.

Ambiguity and multi-dimensionality

Development is often qualified as social, economic or political development. We must not only inquire into the meaning of economic and social and political development but also find out how these different forms of development relate to each other. Conceptual analysis has to go hand in hand with empirical investigations. Theoretical modelling must be combined with the structuring of the data with indicators. Economic and social development seem to be closely associated, but how about political development versus socio-economic development?

Economic development is typically approached as identical with growth in GDP per capita. However, there are several problems in such a simplistic concept. Firstly, what is the import of rapid growth rates in GDP per capita? Does it really mean a higher level of affluence for the whole population, the abolishment of poverty? Secondly, there is the difficult problem of modelling economic growth: which factors are the basic determinants of increases in output? It is now agreed that it is not enough to look at only pure economic variables like capital investments, as economic growth depends on the wider social and political set up. And we may have to recognize that economic growth may have different sources in advanced and poor countries.

Social development implies a broader approach to development than simply production output or income per capita. Material well-being involves other aspects of the quality of life. Social transformation may take different routes in different cultures, but how are we to designate one type as development with a large D? The link between economic and social transformation may be quite close at times, particularly in the early stages of industrialization. But how about social change in the post-industrial society? And what about the huge increase in giant cities in the Third World, which has no real counterpart in the development process of the rich world? Patterns of broad social transformation may be very difficult to pin down in a general fashion.

Political development, finally, presents its own problems. What is really the meaning of this contested no-

tion? Whereas the model of economic transformation resulting in higher levels of affluence appears to be relevant for Third World countries, it is questionable whether there is something similar with regard to some model of political development. Political development seems to be more culturally determined than socio-economic development. The attempts to identify a special pattern of political transformation has failed as the attempt to model political development in a particular way. Why?

Measurement

It is not enough to dwell upon reflections about the meaning of “development”, because we wish to proceed to a statement of the differences and similarities in the level of and rate of change in development in the countries of the world. Thus, we need indices or indicators. When the countries of the world are divided into the advanced countries and the LDC's, then which measurement procedures are used? It is often claimed that the gap between the rich countries and the poor countries keeps growing larger, but is this really true for all the countries in the Third World? The use of measurement tools means that we have to take a careful look at the available statistics. The data keeps being improved for more and more countries meaning that we can base our analysis of patterns of development on more reliable statistics for a larger set of countries. How do we tie our indicators of development – economic, social and political – with our concepts of development?

Values

It is impossible not to talk about values in relation to the concept of development as the whole notion of development is heavily value ingrained. Development, basically, is a change process considered desirable. But what are the criteria for designating one transformation process as development and another change pattern as undevelopment? It is often claimed that the whole notion of development is a Western biased conception; yet, most LDC's strive hard for development in order to handle future problems. It would prove interesting to try to sort out what is universal and what is indigenous in the values attached to development.

Organization

COCTA will take the initiative to organize seminars and panels where these problems related to development will be discussed. Anyone interested in the concept of development and the possibilities for setting up indicators for its measurement, should write to me so that we may start a conversation. Future international meetings will be announced in relation to IPSA, ISA and ISSC. This COCTA effort to deal with the theoretical and empirical analysis of development is a continuation of earlier COCTA endeavors as noted in the INTERCOCTA Report below.

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Intercoccta Report

1. The Manual

A detailed explanation of guide-lines for the preparation and utilization of an INTERCOCTA glossary has now been published by UNESCO under the title: *THE INTERCOCTA MANUAL: TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF SOCIAL SCIENCE TERMS* (Paris: UNESCO, 166 p.). It is available from UNESCO's Division for the Social and Economic Sciences as No. 58 in its "Reports and Papers in the Social Sciences".

The manual was designed for the use of editors who are engaged in the actual production and utilization of INTERCOCTA glossaries and consequently it contains a great deal of technical information based on experience gained in the preparation of the pilot glossary for ethnicity research. The onomantic approach which is designed to help authors find the most appropriate terms to express key concepts and to facilitate the design and acceptance of new term when they are needed was explained in an earlier UNESCO report, No. 57, under the title, *HELP FOR SOCIAL SCIENTISTS: A NEW KIND OF REFERENCE PROCESS*, also prepared by Fred Riggs. It needs to be read and understood before anyone attempts to utilize the manual.

Unlike dictionaries and conventional glossaries, an INTERCOCTA glossary (or "nomenclator") is basically a computerized database, open to utilization in a number of different ways, subject to continuous revision and augmentation based on feedback from users. This requires the organization of networks of authors whose experience and actual needs determine the evolution of the database and the services that it can provide.

2. The Pilot Project

The basic guide-lines offered in the Manual are based on experience gained in the pilot project for "ethnicity research." This theme proved most suitable because of its multi-disciplinary and multi-lingual interest. Roundtables and panels on problems of ethnic terminology have been held at world sociology, political science and anthropology congresses – the latest during July 1988 in Zagreb (anthropology) and in August 1988 in Washington D.C. (political science), under COCTA sponsorship. (For details see *COCTA News* (1987) No. 3).

A pilot edition of the Ethnicity Glossary has been privately published under copyright of the International Social Science Council. Copies may be obtained from its editor, Fred Riggs, at the University of Hawaii, Political Science Department, in Honolulu. Copies may also be ordered from INDEKS VERLAG, for DM 48,-.

Interest in the pilot project has led to the launching of parallel versions of the ethnicity glossary in several other languages, starting with a Russian version produced at the Institute of Ethnography in the Soviet Academy of Sciences, under the guidance of its director, Academician Yu. V. Bromley. A French version has now also been launched, under a UNESCO contract, with Prof. Eric de Grolier, consultant to the ISSC, as director. An international Francophone group of consultants and users is even now in process of formation. Meanwhile the possibility of additional versions in German and Spanish is under consideration.

3. New Themes

The INTERCOCTA strategy for future development of subject-field glossaries and the over-all design of an international conceptual encyclopedia is conditioned by two basic limitations: first the availability of resources, and second the emergence of interest. The latter is more fundamental. Unless there is a user community of scholars who want the service and agree to use it interactively, an INTERCOCTA glossary cannot succeed. This places a premium on the manifestation of interest as a determinant of project choice.

As for resource limitations, UNESCO's budget does not permit the Organization to carry the full costs of an INTERCOCTA glossary project. Fortunately, however, it can provide "seed money" to be used for planning purposes. Interested user groups should then be able to find the supplementary resources that are needed and, of course, the ultimate sale of services to users will also generate necessary income.

So far active interest in the preparation of new INTERCOCTA glossaries has emerged in Moscow and Budapest for the design, concurrently, of projects that focus on "way of life" as a central theme. The Hungarian "way of life" project is under the direction of Dr. G. Rózsa, Librarian of the Academy of Sciences in Budapest, and the Soviet project centers in the Institute of Ethnography in Moscow, under the direction of Academician Y. V. Bromley. International consultations on these projects are taking place during the summer of 1988 at several locations.

Other possible themes are currently under consideration and will have been discussed at international meetings when this report appears. They include notions of the "state" and of "development." The general context for these discussions was reported in *COCTA News, IC* (1987) No. 3, p. 157. Some changes have occurred in the schedule reported there and will be described in our next issue. The most important point, however, is that an additional panel has been organized at the American Political Science Association, immediately following the IPSA Congress.

Themes relating to "development" and "the state" will occur.

Jan-Erik Lane will present a report on conceptualizations of "development". In COCTA experience, the theme "development" is the oldest, having been the focus of discussion at the Congress of the International Sociological Association (ISA) in Uppsala, 1978. From it was derived the essay on "Development" by F. Riggs which appeared in Giovanni Sartori's COCTA-sponsored volume "Social Science Concepts" (Sage, 1986). A pilot INTERCOCTA glossary project on "desarollo" (development) was prepared, in Spanish, at CENDES, in Caracas, Venezuela, the research center for development studies of the national Venezuelan university. Moreover, the original pilot study carried out under UNESCO sponsorship had a focus on "development", and the conclusions drawn from this study provided the basis for the INTERCOCTA Report, published by UNESCO in 1981. This report, No. 47 in the RPSS Series, served as the foundation for the work of the CONTA Conference on Social Science Concepts and Terms, held in Bielefeld 1981. Its proceedings, published in 1982, are now available from INDEKS Verlag for DM 30,- (US \$ 15,-)

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