Various definitions of methodology in the humanities and their relationship with methods

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Abstract

Methodology is a widely used term in the fields of philosophy of science and the humanities. Despite its seemingly clear concept, the definitions cited for methodology are varied and ambiguous. This article aims to disambiguate the definitions by identifying the components of the definitions, orientations and emphasized matters and their goals and categorizing them. In this research, the library method and reference to methodological texts were used for data collection, and the linguistic analysis and comparison method was used for analysis. Based on the research findings, methodology is viewed from two perspectives. The dominant perspective in formal scientific discussions is from the perspective of philosophy of science or paradigm, and the second perspective is from the perspective of intra-science. According to the first perspective, scientific foundations and assumptions, especially epistemological assumptions, are discussed, and their effects appear either in the generality and identity of science or in the research method of science. However, according to the second perspective, the discussion of the foundations of science is generally set aside and the content of methodological discussions is determined in accordance with its purpose and outcome. The purpose of methodology in this perspective is one of the following: understanding the theory or method of a thinker, the research process, the applied research methods, or the methods used in a specific study.

Keywords: methodology, philosophy of science, humanities, foundations of science, assumptions of science, research method, quantitative and qualitative methods.

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