

UDC 008

DOI: 10.34670/AR.2023.56.12.021

The concept of conflict in cultural discourse

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Abstract

The relevance of considering the concept of "conflict" in cultural discourse is due to the fact that when analyzing and resolving conflicts in modern society it is necessary to consider the cultural characteristics of all participants in the conflict interaction, who are the bearers of a particular culture. The cultural sphere as an environment of conflicts is becoming as important to study as the psychological and social spheres. We can state the systemic impact of culture on the genesis and dynamics of conflicts at all levels of the social structure due to the total immersion of each individual in culture. The purpose is to consider the concept of "conflict" in cultural discourse. The subject of the study is conflict as a cultural phenomenon. Research methods: theoretical analysis, generalization, comparativist analysis. The scientific novelty of the work lies in the justification of the cultural studies of the conflict as the original direction of theoretical and applied research. The practical significance of the study lies in the possibility of using its results in the framework of theoretical and applied research, as well as in educational activities. Within the framework of this work, we updated the need for a systematic consideration of the concept of "conflict" within the framework of cultural knowledge, characterized cultural or normative conflict as a common phenomenon in retrospect and in modern life, analyzed two possible approaches in cultural studies of conflict from the standpoint of cultural conflict and the functioning of cultural-agreed models of conflict behavior.

For citation

Il'inskaya E.A., Birzhenyuk G.M., Sharafadina K.I. (2023) The concept of conflict in cultural discourse. *Kul'tura i tsivilizatsiya* [Culture and Civilization], 13 (1A-2A), pp. 153-159. DOI: 10.34670/AR.2023.56.12.021

Keywords

Conflict cultural studies, conflict, cultural environment, cultural conflict, intercultural communication, conflictology.

Introduction

In the cultural scientific field today, various aspects of the life of human society are widely considered. The theoretical and practical plans analyze the historical factors of the theory of culture and cultural views, traditions and cultural innovations, various cultural phenomena and approaches to the study of certain cultural forms [Sozinova et al., 2023]. At the same time, cultural appeal and understanding of such a frequent phenomenon in modern realities as conflict seems relevant. The pronounced interdisciplinary nature of cultural studies and conflictology will help us to identify related areas of these sciences, within the boundaries of which it is possible to study conflict as a phenomenon of culture.

Main part

In the process of the historical development of mankind, the attitude to understanding the essence of the conflict changed, ranging from a negative attitude to conflict interaction and a desire to overcome this phenomenon within the framework of the consensus direction (O. Comte, E. Durkheim, T. Parsons, G. Tard), and ending with a positive view of the nature of the conflict within the boundaries of the conflict direction (K. Marx, M. Weber, G. Simmel, R. Darendorf, L. Kozler). Throughout the twentieth century, scientists attempted to theoretically transform the social system in order to overcome conflict interaction, which turned out to be a utopia, and revealed the need to develop adequate methods and technologies for resolving conflicts [Mel'nikova, 2022].

The concept of "conflict" is considered quite deeply in in different sciences but it is obvious that there is a cultural subtext in almost any conflict, regardless of its form and type. Thus, when analyzing conflicts, the cultural sphere as the environment of conflict becomes as important for study as psychological and social. One can state the systemic impact of culture on the genesis and dynamics of conflicts at all levels of social structure due to the total immersion of each individual in culture [Gorshkova, Mel'nikova, 2018]. The cultural factor is superimposed on all types of conflicts involving a person from interpersonal to large social, since the cultural attitudes of the person are stable, difficult to overcome and are at the archetypal level of human consciousness. The conflict of intercultural communication is due to the fact that the individual perceives another culture through the prism of his cultural tradition and stereotypes, which significantly limits perception. And its own culture, values, norms, customs are always closer, more dear and clearer.

There are two views on the nature of the conflict: resource, which considers the contradictions of people in the field of significant means of life, and value, within the framework of which contradictions in the field of values are analyzed (a system of beliefs, norms, beliefs, ideology, etc.). In this case culture is the most important factor in the development of not only normative conflicts, but also many types of conflict contradictions, which at first glance seem to be exclusively resource-based. For

analysts and practitioners in the field of conflict management in the intercultural environment, it is important to take into account the influence of cultural differences, since it is within the cultural field that the choice of methods for resolving the conflict takes place and the specifics of working with conflictants are determined.

Interest in the cultural aspects of modern conflicts can be clearly traced in the studies of some authors, namely V.V. Kavetskaya [Kavetskaya, 2018], B.V. Kabylynskii [Kabylynskii, 2020], E.N. Bogatyreva [Bogatyreva, 2016], E.V. Tishkevich [Tishkevich, 2019], E.M. Ogorodnikova [Ogorodnikova, 2020], A.Yu. Shilikov [Shilikov, 2013], M.O. Orlov [Orlov, 2019], V.I. Markov [Markov, 2012]. These works touch upon the main problems included in the circle of cultural understanding of the conflict, but at the same time, no author has undertaken a deep justification for the emergence of such a direction as cultural studies of the conflict.

Conventionally, two main approaches to the study of conflicts within the framework of cultural studies can be distinguished. The first from the point of view of the conflict of cultures, i.e., within the framework of intercultural conflict interaction between representatives of different cultures and ethnic groups. The second from the point of view of building certain models of conflict behavior and models of conflict management based on cultural specifics, i.e., determining the cultural and behavioral characteristics of carriers of a particular culture in everyday life.

The object of cultural studies of conflict as a scientific theory can be a system of socio-cultural interactions characterized by a clash of parties and subjects, i.e., a socio-cultural environment for the emergence of conflict. A conflict always occurs in a certain environment that has specific characteristics that systematically affect the depth, dynamics, and duration of conflict communication. If we take into account that culture, according to A. Ya. Flier, is "the most stable order of social communication and interaction, accepted and widespread in a particular community," and "the cultural environment is the culture itself in its entirety the functions of processes, forms and contents" [Flier, 2011], then the influence of culture on all processes in society, including conflicts, is obvious. Within the framework of a certain culture, a system of socio-cultural preferences of society is formed, which in turn materialize in the norms of conflict behavior. Culture determines the contextuality of the conditions in which conflict unfolds, paints images of a conflict situation in the minds of participants, fixes cognitive and emotional frameworks for the formation of motives and patterns of behavior.

As the subject of cultural studies of conflict, one can single out cultural or normative conflict, both in general form, i.e., arising on the basis of intercultural disagreements between carriers of different cultures, and in the aggregate of culture-oriented patterns of conflict behavior, i.e., methods and forms of manifestation of internal attitudes, views, value approaches to explaining certain phenomena. Each person possesses the patterns of conflict behavior that he has learned within his culture in the process of socialization, inculturation, upbringing and education. The conflict becomes more real, in the case of cultural and behavioral differences between conflictants, which form a barrier of communication and a potential negativity of the assessment of what is happening and its participants. This is due to the fact that a person has culturally agreed perceptual experience in communication, skills in operating and interpreting perceived information within the boundaries of his culture. If we fall into someone else's culture, then we involuntarily use already formed communication skills, which complicates intercultural interaction and can lead to conflicts.

In scientific discourse, different researchers have identified types of cultural or normative conflicts. Neil Smelzer identifies three types of conflicts caused by the development of culture. The first is an anomaly (the term was introduced by E. Durkheim), i.e., the destruction of the unity of culture in connection with the transformation of society. The second type of conflict associated with socio-cultural development is cultural lag or cultural lag. The term cultural lag was introduced by W. Ogborn and is considered by him from psychological and social point of view in the same time. The concept of

"cultural lag" formed the basis for justifying the colonial expansion of European countries and modern exports of democracy through color revolutions. The third type is an alien influence, i.e., the process of inhibiting national integration due to internal instability due to the presence of opposite elements of culture.

Piotr Sztompka identified five forms of manifestation of socio-cultural conflicts: conflict of interpretations, normative-value conflict, deprivation conflict, civilizational conflict and intracultural conflict [Sztompka, 2001].

It is possible to distinguish the following types of cultural conflicts on a normative basis: 1) a creative type based on confrontation over the priority of a particular method of knowledge in science, art and other spheres of public practice; 2) conflict of interpretations, which unfolds not only in the scientific, creative, intellectual spheres, but can also be associated with the interpretation of religious, legal, any other social norms; 3) conflict of innovation and tradition between supporters of progress and tradition. In the event of a cultural conflict, its depth and dynamics, as well as methods of settlement, will directly depend on the social structure. The more culturally homogeneous a society is, the less conflicted it is, since the presence of many subcultures, one way or another, will lead to conflict situations. The high dynamics of the development of the cultural system, for example, due to the widespread use of information technologies, is always conflictogenic due to the possible cultural lag of certain segments of the population. Low cultural differentiation of society provides low conflict potential, but such a situation can only be considered if there is a closed cultural system.

Conclusion

Within the framework of conflict cultural studies as an original direction of theoretical and applied research it is possible to consider extensive theoretical material in the context of a cultural approach to conflict analysis. It is advisable to analyze the evolution of scientific knowledge about the cultural nature of conflict, highlight the basic concepts within the framework of this discipline, explore the cultural space as an environment for the emergence of socio-cultural conflicts, the specifics of the representations of cultural universals among different peoples and its influence on the emergence of conflicts, prove the conflictogenicity of the implementation of regulatory and synchronizing functions of culture, to characterize ethnocultural stereotypes as conflictogens, to consider the phenomenon of the vision of the enemy and the technology of forming the image of the enemy through the media in historical retrospect and today, to justify the influence of the dichotomy "own – alien," "I – the other" to analyze such concepts as "culture shock", "cultural trauma", "social-cultural stress", "information trauma", etc. In the applied field of conflict cultural studies, it seems relevant to argue the specifics of conflict resolution considering the cultural logic of the conflicting parties, to develop recommendations for negotiating between representatives of different cultures for an intermediary, as well as to use an integrated approach to understanding culture in resolving regulatory conflicts.

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Понятие «конфликт» в культурологическом дискурсе

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Аннотация

Актуальность рассмотрения понятия «конфликт» в культурологическом дискурсе обусловлена тем, что при анализе и урегулировании конфликтов в современном обществе необходимо учитывать культурные особенности всех участников конфликтного взаимодействия, являющихся носителями той или иной культуры. Культурная сфера как среда возникновения конфликтов становится такой же важной для изучения, как психологическая и социальная. Можно констатировать системное воздействие культуры на генезис и динамику конфликтов на всех уровнях общественного устройства по причине тотальной погруженности каждого индивида в культуру. Целью данного исследования является рассмотрение понятия «конфликт» в культурологическом дискурсе. Предметом исследования является конфликт как явление культуры. Методы исследования: теоретический анализ, обобщение, компаративистский анализ. Научная новизна работы заключается в обосновании культурологии конфликта как оригинального направления теоретических и прикладных исследований. Практическая значимость исследования заключается в возможности использования его результатов в рамках теоретических и прикладных исследований, а также в образовательной деятельности. Выводы: в рамках данной работы мы актуализировали необходимость системного рассмотрения понятия «конфликт» в рамках культурологического знания, охарактеризовали культурный или нормативный конфликт как часто встречающееся явление в ретроспективе и в современной жизни, проанализировали два возможных подхода в культурологии конфликта с позиции конфликта культур и функционирования культурообусловленных моделей конфликтного поведения.

Для цитирования в научных исследованиях

Ильинская Е.А., Бирженюк Г.М., Шарафадина К.И. Понятие «конфликт» в культурологическом дискурсе // Культура и цивилизация. 2023. Том 13. № 1А-2А. С. 153-159. DOI: 10.34670/AR.2023.56.12.021

Ключевые слова

Культурология конфликта, конфликт, культурная среда, культурный конфликт, межкультурная коммуникация, конфликтология.

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