

Sociology of Knowledge and Its Influence upon the Society

SUMMARY

The law, representing one of the specific systems of the society, can be viewed on different levels. These levels namely include the normative, axiological and legal-sociological level.

Within the context of social sciences we examine the law as social phenomenon acting upon the society. Through mythology, and primarily through various forms of legal communication, this influence constitutes the legal awareness that is subsequently influenced by biogenic, psychogenic and social factors. In the broadest sense, the notion of knowledge denotes a set of information or concepts of certain facts. The knowledge encompasses not only theoretical knowledge but also practical techniques and skills, i.e. ways by which theoretical knowledge becomes a part of practice.

The starting point of the present work is the view of the society through the eyes of the sociology of knowledge. Between the systems of knowledge, language and law, there exists a connection that develops in history, within the society differentiated into segments, as well as vertically and horizontally. In the modern (industrial) period, the field of social sciences is viewed through the systems theories that are deeply rooted in natural sciences, namely biology. At present we regard the systems of knowledge, language and law as autopoietic systems.

The autopoietic systems give birth to their own elements or units and subsequently use them for further operations. In this sense these systems differ from those of the modern period that are characterized as open systems. The autopoietic systems are also supposed to include the political and moral systems.

Our aim is to demonstrate how the autopoietic systems come into being in relation to the transformation of society. From the very beginning of human existence, the social evolution has been happening in close connection to the evolution of legal thinking and the semantic revolution. Up to the present day, the evolution has been proceeding in two basic cycles. The first one represents the return of totalitarian regimes to the historical experience of the so-called cosmological empires. The second cycle draws experience from the life of the ancient society in order to give birth to the modern stratified society in the Enlightenment period. These transformations are deeply affected

by thoughts about the state, or thoughts about law, as well as by the language development. The methodological interconnection of the sociology of knowledge and the legal science helps us to better clarify the nature of these changes. Based on today's social transformations, we conclude that the knowledge, language and law can be defined as three internally differentiated autopoietic systems. In the post-modern situation, the law breaks away from the moral system and, along with the end of great ideas; it loses its ambition to function as a dominant regulator of the society. Also the language is undergoing transformation, becoming the language of the media age.

Key words: knowledge, language, and law.

Klíčová slova: vědění, jazyk a právo.