

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to present a critique of positivism in social sciences. The first chapter is devoted to a presentation of what positivism is. We also learn that positivism is closely related to neopositivism and that in many definitions of these words, the word „metaphysics“ appears. Second chapter is devoted to Peter Winch's book *The idea of a social science and its relation to philosophy*. Analysis of this book is presented and we are shown many dangers of positivistic approach regarding the investigation of society. A concept of understanding a society is introduced, which is based on understanding given society's rules.

Third chapter presents philosophy of science from Martin Heidegger. First, the notion of „metaphysics“ is explained. Then we move onto the explanation of the meaning of science and technology in modern society. At the end of the thesis, we are presented with a short comparison of Winch's and Heidegger's philosophy. Conclusion includes new possible routes that sociology could take.