

**THE SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN
APPROACHING OF THE THEME: "THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF
DOMINATION AND VOLUNTARY SERVITUDE."
THE RESEARCH PROJECT (III)**

Nicolaie MĂNESCU¹

ABSTRACT: THIS PRESENTATION CONTINUES THE SERIES OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THIS JOURNAL WHICH ARE PROPOSING AN ORIGINAL PRESENTATION REGARDING THE METHODOLOGY OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN ADDRESSING THE THEME: "THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE DOMINATION AND VOLUNTARY SERVITUDE". THE RESEARCH PROJECT, WHICH PREPARES THE WAY OF THE EMPIRICAL RESEARCH, OPENS NOW NEW STAGES: THAT OF SPECIFYING OF THE DIMENSIONS, INDICATORS AND INDICES OF THE INVESTIGATED SOCIAL REALITY, THE ANALYSIS OF DEFINITIONAL INDICATORS, THE TRANSITION FROM INDICATORS TO INDICES, THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF CONCEPTS WHICH ARE THE OBJECT OF THE RESEARCH, THE SETTING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPLANATORY VARIABLES. THE CONCEPTS OF DOMINATION AND SERVITUDE ARE DETERMINANT IN ESTABLISHING THE VARIABLES AND FIXATION OF INDICATORS. THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIABLES INVOLVES, THROUGH THE CHOICE OF INDICATORS, THE TRANSLATION OF CONCEPTS IN INDICES.

KEY WORDS: DOMINATION, VOLUNTARY SERVITUDE, METHODOLOGY, RESEARCH, OPERATIONALIZATION, VARIABLES, INDICATORS.

1. THE SPECIFICATION OF THE DIMENSIONS, INDICATORS AND INDICES OF INVESTIGATED SOCIAL REALITY

1.1. THE ANALYSIS OF DEFINITIONAL INDICATORS

The indicators are observable and measurable signs with the help of which can be characterized the social units and their qualities. The indicators are signals by which we find the empirical entities subsumed of a notion, in the case of those attributive or which fall in a particular class or receive a certain value, for the ones of variable type.

In relation of waiting *social status-role*, *the servitude* can represent an indicator that characterizes an individual's position within a group or among different social groups and in society, in general. The indicators, of the kind taken as example, used in the operationalization of concepts are called *definitional indicators*. *The domination* as and *the servitude*, respectively *the voluntary servitude*, are indicators which reflect the level of obedience, the degree of voluntary subservience or the one of exercise of political power in a

¹ Ph.D. Student, University of Craiova; Assistant Researcher, "Constantin Brâncuși" University of Târgu-Jiu, ROMANIA, E-mail: nicolaiemanescu@yahoo.com.

state. Between the definitional indicators and concepts defined operational is born an interdependence relation. The one who has a high *social status*, a certain social rank, has more rights than obligations, has a considerable fortune, and is part of the state power structure and dominates the needy of these qualities to which the obligations are more numerous than the rights. The servitude / voluntary servitude is a syndrome of the lack of power. It does not occur in the absence of which, representing power in the state, are empowered to exercise it. "The analysis of the definitional indicators aims to determine the probability or correlation between *indicators* and *indicated*, in order to retain within the empirical research those indicators that are strongly correlated with indicated. In establishing the definitional indicators we will seek to maximize both the power of content and the power of rejection, so that *the correlation between indicators and indicated to tend to 1*, when using a single indicator for defining operational. In such situations we talk about *the power of discrimination* of the indicator. Between two definitional indicators considering can be born a *space of indeterminacy* which is desired to be as small as possible." ² At the choice of the definitional indicators we will consider the type of indicators on which we will call using either *expressive indicators* or *predictive indicators*. Taking into debate the authoritarian personality and obedience to authority, the American sociologist *Paul F. Lazarsfeld*, exemplifies a type of *expressive indicator* under the form of a forming urge in the spirit of obedience to power: "*The obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues which the children must learn*" and like *predictive indicator* enunciates the following assumption: "*Most people do not realize how much our life is directed by the conspiracy woven by politicians*, this last prediction being interpreted to those who asserts, as a antidemocratic action".³ The response to the exercise of political power in the state and to its dominant character may be an indicator of the degree of authority and legitimacy of power in a society, regardless of ideology or forms of manifestation of power.

Daniel J. Levinson, former professor of psychology at Yale University, United States, launches in the field of political sociology a scale of antidemocratic attitude from which we will choose, as an example, a few steps:

- "*the authoritarian submission* - is an exaggerated emotional need to subordinate to others through uncritical acceptance of the decisions that come from the state power or from a leader who holds power;
- *the authoritarian aggression* - is an iron discipline, an attitude of the power of total rejection of behaviors that deviate from generally accepted values of severe punishment of persons who have an anti-social and anti-system attitude and favoring of their condemnation;
- *strength and obstinacy* – the alienation of person with what represents the force, thus imposing itself the power system and thus achieving the need for subordination and servitude;
- *destructiveness and cynicism* - the rationalized aggression, even the cynicism, allows those who hold the power and represents an authority of the state, not always legitimate, to be aggressive because they can justify the aggression by holding the power, sometimes through an inhuman behavior that will be regarded and received with helpless hostility".⁴

² Septimiu Chelcea, *The Sociological Research Methodology, The Quantitative and Qualitative Methods*, (Bucharest: The Economic Publishing House, 2001), 114-116.

³ Paul Lazarsfeld, *Methodes de la sociologie* (vol.I), *Des concepte aux indices empirique*, (Paris: Mouton et Co., 1965; in Septimiu Chelcea, 2001), 116.

⁴ M.J.Saks, E.Krupat, *Social psihology and its application*, (New York: Harper & Row Publishers Inc., 1988), 104.

1.2. THE PASSING FROM INDICATORS TO INDICES

An immediately following step within the research project and analysis of investigated social reality is the passing from indicators to indices. From the observable and measurable signs by which we can characterize the social units it passes to a set of variables which must be sorted by classes. By index it is meant "*one-dimensional variable with r values on which are sorted v classes of possible combinations of features in a multidimensional space of attributes*".⁵

2. THE OPERATIONALIZATION THE CONCEPTS WHICH ARE THE OBJECT OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

2.1. THE CONCEPTS OF DOMINATION AND SERVITUDE

The concepts constitute the essence of any scientific theory. The sociology elaborates itself a conceptual system specific related to its object of activity: structure and social relationships, social action, groups and human communities etc. The sociological theories are constituted into a rich database that are of real use.

The scientific research is an empirical research that starts from a theory, certain fundamental hypotheses or of working or *concepts*, of which adaptation to operational concrete requirements involves:

1) "The establishing the dimensions of the concept which correspond the reality, state of fact, of the manifestation of the relation or phenomenon;

The concepts of "*domination*" or that of "*servitude*" include at least the following dimensions: types, forms, trends, proportions, beliefs, attitudes and practices.

Indicators of the concept of domination and servitude can be:

- the grade of conscious and voluntary assuming of compliance with laws;
- the submission level of the dominated;
- the level of coercion in exercising of the state power;
- the undemocratic or democratic character of designating of power (free elections);
- the guarantee and respecting citizens' rights and freedoms.

2) The fixation of the variables or factors that determine or influence the conduct of social phenomena (for example: age, profession, social environment, religion, social state, etc.);

3) The choice of indicators that are features or concrete aspects of the concept, which can be observed and measured directly (for example: the servitude is indicated by the level of domination or as appropriate, of oppression. Indicators of the domination can be: the presence of a dominant political class and of some dominated groups, classes or social groups, the disproportionate distribution of power in society, the element relational dominant-dominated, the level of consolidation of power, the level of acceptance and submission to power, the voluntary predisposition for the servitude of social groups and of individuals);

4) The formulation of indices (for example: indices "*dominant*" and "*dominated*" become operational through the consideration of social position, income, status and social role of individuals in society). "The method determines the concrete ways of using the procedures. The process or procedure refers to the order of successive operations that are imposed to the researcher in the process of knowledge and it is considering the formal organization of data".⁶

⁵ Renate Mayntz (coord.), *Einführung in die Methoden der empirische Soziologie*, (Köln: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1969), 44.

⁶ Dumitru Otovescu, *General Sociology*, The fifth edition, (Craiova: Beladi Publishing House, 2009), 112-113.

a) *The determination of the significance of concepts* is achieved by configuration and imposing in a particular area or sector of research of what we call *definition*. By the operationalization of concepts or of variables construction is designated the entire process of the dimensions and indicators highlighter of a given field, for transposition of the theme into a concrete investigation procedure. Between the general concepts and empirical reality reflected by these it is established a relationship mediated by the so-called vertical and horizontal operationalizations.

Paul Felix Lazarsfeld is the sociologist who elaborates the paradigm of the operationalization of the concepts in sociological research. "This paradigm includes: the imaging representation of the concept, the specification of the concept by establishing the dimensions, the choice of indicators and construction of empirical indices."⁷

The problem of operationalization of concepts is directly related to determine the modalities through which is realized the link between the conceptual-theoretical part and empirical reality. In the methodological theory and practice it has been defined as being *the operationalization of concepts* that assembly of operations through which the characteristic features of the notions are identified, evaluated and measured through the practical process of scientific research. This operation represents a characteristic approach to epistemology, the theory of scientific knowledge. Within the sociological surveys it operates with two types of notions, some of attributive type and others of variable type. The attributive type ones highlight the scope and the content of the notion. For example, in the survey appear notions of attributive type such as: fired, unemployed, employer, employee, but the attributive type traits are much more numerous. The attributive notions are easier to operationalize, they assuming only the identifying the presence of a trait or a complex of traits and not the measurement of intensity of their manifestation. The notions of variable type can presume subjects, of the type of human individuals, social groups, state power, etc., which is constituted in "object" of empirical research but, particularly, we are interested in those traits, states, manifestations and even a gradual variation of the intensity of some characteristics of the type which are the object of our study, as well as the exercise of state power, domination and voluntary servitude. This is just what we are more interested. There is no question the existence or inexistence of the exercising of state power or domination, but of the gradual variable, of the intensity of manifestation, of the social supportability levels, the level of domination and correlative level of manifestation of servitude or revolt, in response to the dominating stimuli of the power. In the case of voluntary servitude, if this act of will is not recognized as a phenomenon, as a state of attitude and manifestation of individuals and the social groups, it arises first of all the problem of its identification as a variable notion and then of the determination of the influence and the gradual variable on the relations between the power state and society, as well as the social equilibrium in general. The analysis will be determined by the theoretical part of the study, while the concrete research needs that every dimension should be operationalized, namely transposed in practical indicators of using.

The renowned American sociologist *Paul Lazarsfeld* synthesizes the stages that must be completed from the concept to the empirical study, which is the essence of operationalization as follows:

➤ "Originally there is an image or a vague representation of what we mean by a notion, resulting image, either of the highlighting of some common features subjacent to more disparate phenomena, or from the attempt to explain certain constant regularities. The created concept has the role to make it possible to understand the meaning of the observed relations.

⁷ Ion Cauc, Beatrice Manu, Daniela Pârlea, Laura Goran, *The Sociological Research Methodology, Methods and Techniques of Research*, The second edition, (Bucharest: "Romania de Mâine" Foundation, 2004), 21.

➤ The second stage regards the specifying of the concept and means the decomposition of representation into components that constitute the different aspects or dimensions of the concept. Such components are derived from the theoretical analysis of the concept;

➤ It is following the choice of indicators, the indicator being that simple element of behavior, of manifestation or phenomenal, which can be detected in the empirical reality. An indicator can have a numeric value or a specification like yes / no. A benchmark indicator concerning domination, for example, can give solutions to another indicator regarding the correlative element of servitude or individual and collective submission. In the case of the investigation and surveys, the indicators always takes the form of questions in the questionnaire.

➤ The fourth stage is the one of indices formation; it is realized thus a synthesis of information gathered using indicators that can be global, based on a global score, (global index) or can be constituted partial indices for reasons related to the interpretation of the concept. This stage is the one of the synthesis, because it is trying the reconstruction of the concept based on information collected with the help of the chosen indicators." ⁸

If, for example, we want to know which is *the global index* of domination from the data processing of a survey questionnaire, like the one we propose, with the theme: "*The social impact of the exercise of state power, of domination and servitude voluntary*", from the cumulating of resulted values from the investigation of every individual, to those *n* questions it will get a total figure that is even the global index. The higher number of responses (indicators) is not determining in ensuring a higher degree of representativeness and nor the size beyond measure of the proposed sample. For the analysis of model consistency it can be used several genres of statistical procedures that are based on the analysis of the matrix of correlation coefficients between the pairs of items. The most frequent method used is the one of *the factorial analysis*. "*A concept once operationalized, once specified and pursued some its dimensions, the empirical survey results will describe only the retained aspects by the dimensions and the used indicators*". ⁹

b) The defining of sociological concepts through the nominal procedure

The definition is a logical-semantic operation of the knowledge and interpersonal communication. To define is to follow a logic operation by which it is appreciated the meaning of the terms used.

The functions of definitions systematized by *Cornel Popa* are recognized and mentioned by others sociologists, such as *Septimiu Chelcea*, as well we render them in the following:

- a. the *referentially-designating* function consisting in delimitation of a class of objects;
- b. the function of *introduction of new terms in the vocabulary of a knowing agent*;
- c. function of *concentration of information*, of shortcut of communication;
- d. the function of *revealing the changes intervened in the process of knowledge*;
- e. the *synthetic-calculating* function that allows the information processing in another language.

Carl Gustav Hempel, in "*Fundamentals of Concept Formation in Empirical Science*", distinguishes in social-human sciences three types of definitions: *ostensive*, *nominal* and *operational*.

⁸ Traian Rotariu, Petru Iluț, *The Sociological Investigation and Opinion Survey*, (Iași: Polirom Publishing House, 1997), 179-180.

⁹ Traian Rotariu, Petru Iluț, *The Sociological Investigation ...*, 181.

✓ "With the help of *ostensive definition* a knowing agent finds the meaning of a word without using other words. It speaks the new word and at the same time it shows the designed object.

✓ *The nominal or verbal definition* consists of the specifying the meaning of a term with other terms, respectively from verbal description of the significance of a concept. The word whose meaning must be shown (*the definiendum*) has the same meaning as the word with which the new term is introduced (*the definiens*). The explicit definition (*the definiens*) can consist either from revealing *the proximate genre* (the term of reference of the definition, the closest in meaning to the notion defined and of *specific difference* (the characteristic feature of the notion which differentiates it from the others notions contained in its proximate genre) or by enumerating the objects that belong to the class called definiens.

✓ *The operational definition* is applicable to the objects and designed qualities that cannot be directly observable. In such cases, it tries a "translation" of concepts in "observable events".¹⁰ This procedure is called "*the operationalization of concepts*".

c) The establishing of the dimensions of concepts

The concepts, so delimited regarding the significance, are subject in their turn to a sub classing that should allow the study of the space of basic conceptual attributes. These dimensions of a concept are classes of information regarding the range of features on which the concept extracts them from reality. The new sub conceptual dimensions are the same correlative concepts, with a lower degree of generality than the essential concept.

3. THE ESTABLISHING OF EXPERIMENTAL VARIABLES (THE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE AND DEPENDENT VARIABLE)

3.1. THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIABLES

The assumption which we must prove must be confronted with the problem of *constructing of variables*, namely of the transition / translation of the concepts and notions in defined research operations. *The construction of variables implies, through the choice of indicators, the translation of concepts in indices.* It makes the transition from the abstract definition or from the intuitive connotation to notions sociological according to criteria that allow the definition of a classification of these variables.

Lazarfeld in "*Le Vocabulaire des sciences sociales describes four such passages*":

1. The figurative representation of the concept;
2. The specification of concept;
3. The choice of indicators;
4. The construction of indexes.

Once constructed the variables, the experimental situation and subjects are established in the experimental and control groups. The manipulation of the variables, in the first stage of the investigation, will allow eventually their measured.

3.2. THE VARIABLES EXPLANATORY (INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT) IN THE EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

The experiment can provide an advantage by the rigor of the procedure and quality of the obtained information. *Raymond Siever* makes a comparison between observation and experiment, showing that the experiment is, most often, associated with the analytical approach of the phenomenon, unlike the observation, that spontaneously is associated with the descriptive approach, the experimental sciences being always considered superior ones. *Claude Bernard* said: "*We must not believe in our observations, in our theories, only subject to experimentation.*"

¹⁰ Septimiu Chelcea, *The Sociological Research Methodology...*, 107-110.

The experimental research constitutes an iterative process that starts with the verification of the causality relationships and ends with the formulation of some new hypotheses. The necessity of repeating the experiment is dictated by the fact that any experiment is not complete and so good in order to respond suddenly to the questions which we formulate. The repeated investigation can give answers close to enlighten us about the causes of some behaviors or social phenomena. "Any relevant experiment starts from theory to perform the cognitive functions. Because of this, experiment occurs in a late phase of scientific knowledge. The experiment is a natural continuation of the study of theory. In the case of the observation can be discovered unexpected facts, some particularly important, through the so called "*serendipiness*", which can initiate the theory. The experiment is based on theory, checking it, and the theory is based on the experiment. A different approach through disjunction, leads to the failure of knowledge. In order to be fulfilled the function of « *modality of the testing of causal hypotheses* » three conditions are necessary:

- 1) Between the independent variable and the dependent variable must be a temporal anteriority relationship, the cause preceding the effect;
- 2) Between the two variables to be a covariance ($p < 0.05$);
- 3) to be no alternative of explaining the modification of the dependent variable only through the independent variable.

The last two conditions take into account the *statistical validity* and *internal validity* of the experiment." ¹¹

What we are interested are the concrete interactions of human individuals, the relations determined by the internal and external causes in society that represents not only object of study of the research theme but also the object of study of the social and human sciences in general. The particularity of the experiment is that it aims to highlight questions less approached and known, such as the correlation between domination and servitude, in the power relation between state and society.

We are launching questions such as:

- *Is there an antagonistic relationship between state and society?*
- *Does the state manifest against society?*
- *Is the society in its evolution against the state?*

An experiment is concretely the verification of a hypothesis that implies a contrasting situation that can be powered by an antagonistic relationship, in the present case between society and state power. The experiment tries to highlight the two factors who are in a causal relationship. There will be controlled a series of factors besides of that it interests, this is the cause or the hypothetical effect.

Ernest Greenwood insists on two characteristics: the capacity of the experiment to verify the causal hypotheses and the control of experimental situation.

Septimiu Chelcea, in the same context, offers us a definition of the psycho-sociological experiment that consists in "*the analysis of the effects of independent variables on the dependent variables in a controlled situation with the purpose of verifying causal hypotheses.*" ¹²

In the case of our investigation, of the form of a social-political investigation, we will use, like techniques and instruments of research-investigation, the questionnaire and interview. The main causal assumption is related to the influence of *domination* as type of *causal independent variable* on the *voluntary servitude*, effect with role of *dependent variable*. The effect is not one singular, the experiment following the analysis of several

¹¹ Thomas Cook, Donald Campbell, *The Design and Conduct of Quasi-Experiments in Field Settings*, (Chicago: Rand Mc Nally College Publishing Company, 1976), 224.

¹² Septimiu Chelcea, *The Sociological Research Methodology...*, 399.

effects related to servitude. This aspect can take different forms and ways of manifestation, depending on the dynamics of domination, from the minimal forms, almost imperceptible and easily supportable, to the exacerbated domination, unbearable, generating riots and even revolution. The experiment implies to create a situation controllable and controlled. The elaboration of such procedure does not only mean control but subtlety and discernment in such a situation.

Maurice Duverger, the father of the French sociological and methodological school, defines *the experiment* through a methodical explanation, thus: "*In the conduct of a phenomenon they are introduced one or more artificial factors; comparing the obtained results with those that would give the phenomenon in the absence of any intervention, one can measure the influence of introduced factors.*"¹³

We presented a single variable, but in the same way, we can handle two or more independent variables, close to exposed underlying variable or being in conjectural or functional connection with the domination. We can expose a group or several groups at one or more variables, after which we can analyze the change or the produced changes in the variable and dependent variables. The purpose must be one precise and possibly fulfilled not only of description of the object to be known but also of the referrals of known elements and of novelty, of the essence and laws that govern it. The ensuring of *control* is done by the repeatability of similar conditions during the research which would lead to verifiable results, similar or very close among them. The control aims in particular the factors introduced in the experiment for triggering some specific behaviors. It is known the fact that result of the experiment is given, in especially, of the control over variables.

The explanatory variables, also called experimental or internal, are different and are divided into *independent variables* and *dependent variables*. In the sociological research undertaken regarding the exercise of state power and the social impact of domination and voluntary servitude, as determinants of social will, we chose as basic variables, as it was natural, *the domination* as an *independent variable*, a prerogative but also an act of will of state power, and *the voluntary servitude*, as *dependent variable*, which knows values increasing or decreasing depending on the influence exercised on the social groups subject to the power by domination. The independent variable, which is the domination, is introduced in the experiment by the researcher but, in fact, it is a factor or phenomenon introduced by another court which, in a social framework, it manifests itself as legitimate power what is considered that holds, by law, the attribute of authority. The variables are explanatory only when they are reported to the experimental plane where they are independent or dependent. Otherwise, outside of the experiment, they do not possess this quality even if we are tempted to discover, even outside of the experiment, causal relationships that can submit to the universal law of social determinism.

The choice of explanatory variables follows the stage of setting the problem that is intended to be subjected to the experiment and it is depending on the advanced hypothesis. The independent variable operationalizes the component "*if*" while the dependent variable operationalizes the component "*then*" of the hypotheses. If the scale of values of voluntary servitude has the shape of the temperature scale, then the negative values are corresponding in absolute value to the increase of the revolt level and, most of the time, signals the presence of the social change through revolution.

For the verification of the one and the same causal hypothesis or of a subsidiary or adjacent hypothesis, as in the present case, can be chosen multiple explanatory variables because the definitional indicators are interchangeable. It must be chosen the variable or variables that adequately operationalize the concepts and allow their measurement. The

¹³ Maurice Duverger, *Méthodes des sciences sociales*, (Paris: P.U.F., 1961), 356.

experimental variables have the same function as the definitional indicators, so the whole interrelation between *indicators* and *indicated* is translated, mainly, in the choice of independent and dependent variables. An imperceptible difference it is that the definitional indicators must be observable and measurable and the variables can be manipulated. The major limit of the experimental research is given by the difficulty of introducing the independent variable, emphasized and supported fact by the American psycho-sociologist *Jonathan Freedman*.

The experimental variables can be both *quantitative* and *qualitative*. A variable is quantitative when its values can be ordered along a single dimension. We recall here the conflict and solidarity that bind directly from the dependent basic variable of voluntary servitude. The conflict diminishes the voluntary servitude and emphasizes the domination by coercion. The coercion can determine on the moment the increase of the level of submission (servitude) but it has an opposite effect towards the voluntary servitude which tends to zero. The qualitative variables cannot be ordered one dimensional (for example, the profession that gives belonging to a particular status or social group). In an ideal experiment all external variables are controlled but this does not happen because the researcher leaves, knowingly, uncontrollable a series of variables hard to maintain at the same level due to their complexity. These uncontrolled external variables give errors that cancel each other, are *randomized*. The concept of *group* (experimental and control) we will use it alongside of the variables. The experimental *group* is made up of the assembly of the persons over which acts the independent variable introduced by the researcher. The control group makes it possible to compare the effects of the introduction of the independent variable in the experimental group. Over the control group does not act the independent variable. The experimental moment implies the consideration of two moments: t_1 in which the dependent variables are measured before the introduction of independent variables and t_2 , the moment after their introduction. The experimental situation includes subjects, objects and specific conditions in which the experiment takes place.

The factors which act only when introducing the independent variable are known as *catalytic factors* and the factors present at the beginning of the experiment and which act on the dependent variable are called *parallel factors*. It can be considered that the experiment is conducted in three phases: the initial situation, the situation after the introduction of the independent variable and the final situation.

The experimental schemes. In the social domain a factor becomes causal in certain conditions, in the presence of other complementary factors that increase the likelihood of producing the phenomenon. No experiment can be conceived without taking into account *the difference canon* imposed by *John Stuart Mill*, a method of scientific investigation which tends toward perfection, as the author argues which it concretely explains: "*If a case in which the investigated phenomenon takes place and a case in which this does not take place, they have in common all the circumstances, except for one that occurs only in the first case, the unique circumstance by which the two cases are distinguished constitutes either the effect, or the cause, or an indispensable part of the effect or of the case of the respective phenomenon*". (Mill, 1863/1994) This inference applied to logical scheme of the experiment is one of determinist type cause-effect. In the practice of sociological research it is observed a limitation of experimental schemes to several factors considered relevant. Through the previous presented canon it is only possible the causal hypothesis testing after the preliminary observation of the conditions of producing of the phenomena and cannot be discovered the causal links. We will seek as the independent and dependent variables, in our case, to have only two values related to the presence and absence. In "*The Rules of Sociological Method*", *Émile Durkheim* applies the typical of "*the concomitant variation*" considered "*the instrument*

by excellence of the research in sociology" and argues that "any phenomenon that varies in one kind or another, whenever another phenomenon varies in a same particular kind, is either because of, or the effect of the second phenomenon, or it is linked to it by a fact of causality". The research in the case of the present theme cannot be but one of field, a genus of research that does not exclude the theoretical knowledge but it is based on them and in which the experimenter handles an independent variable in a real social situation in order to verify a hypothesis. The field experiment can be passive, when the researcher does not handle the variables, announces the changing of situation and records the reaction of the subjects, or can be active, when the variables are handled effectively and this latter type can be in its turn directly or indirectly, as the experimental factors are introduced or not by researcher. It is considered that the researcher knows the anterior situation and is present when introducing or production the factors that change the social or socio-political situation and records its effects. The experimental factor can be introduced only once or several times. The experimental situation will be changed from a collectivity to another, it will initially aim the urban area and then, more restricted, in the rural area. The experiment is viable and applicable in the hypothesis testing only after sufficient data have been accumulated through observation and empirical verifiable hypotheses were elaborated. In establishing the subjects of experiment it is of applied the probabilistic or stratified *sampling process*. An experiment is followed by a research report. Usually, it addresses to the sponsor. In our case we have no sponsor so we cannot be influenced in the experiment evolution or the content of the report. The report addresses to an institutions interested in respecting of the research methodology and the promotion of values and the uninfluenced objective truth. Then, the results of experimental research are presented to the large public. The work, as a whole, as well the results recorded in the report, may interest and on specialists, the factors of analysis and decision from the structures of the state apparatus, even the power, in the issues mentioned above. In the content of the report that aims at the community of scientists, sociologists, the results of experiments will be integrated to the existing theories and will be signaled, by comparison, other researches having the same theme or close to the investigated theme. One interests, also, what new hypotheses have been suggested, if it is confirmed in practice through the implementation and if the whole effort is justified in the aim of solving of some social problems such as the one signaled by us regarding the necessity of maintaining a balance between the state power and society, as a *sine qua non* condition of normal development of the social life. The experiment, from such a perspective, represents a testing of the theory and the experimental or internal variables are either stimuli, as in the case of the independent variable, or response in the case of the dependent variable.

REFERENCES

1. **Cauc, Ion, Manu, Beatrice, Pârlea, Daniela, Goran, Laura**, *The Sociological Research Methodology, Methods and Techniques of Research*, The second edition, Bucharest: "Romania de Mâine" Foundation, 2004.
2. **Chelcea, Septimiu**, *The Sociological Research Methodology, The Quantitative and Qualitative Methods*, Bucharest: The Economic Publishing House, 2001.
3. **Cook, Thomas, Campbell, Donald**, *The Design and Conduct of Quasi-Experiments in Field Settings*, Chicago: Rand Mc. Nally College Publishing Company, 1976.
4. **Duverger, Maurice**, *Méthodes des Sciences Sociales*, Paris: PUF, 1961.
5. **Lazasfeld, Paul**, *Methodes de la sociologie (vol.I), Des concepte aux indices empirique*, Paris: Mouton et Co., 1965.
6. **Mayntz, Renate**, (eds.), *Einführung in die Methoden der empirische Soziologie*, Köln: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1969.
7. **Otovescu Dumitru**, *General Sociology*, The fifth edition, Craiova: Beladi Publishing House, 2009.
8. **Rotariu, Traian Iluț Petru**, *The Sociological Investigation and Opinion Survey*, Iași: Polirom Publishing House, 1997.
9. **Saks, MJ, Krupa, E.**, *Social Psychology and Its Application*, New York: Harper & Row Publishers Inc., 1988.