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UDC 340

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Can artificial intelligence think analytically-critically, sociologically-philosophically?

Abstract

This study examines whether analytical and critical sociological thinking, two dimensions of sociological-philosophical thinking, which is the way of scientific thinking on humans and society, can be a quality of artificial intelligence instruments. Analytical sociological-philosophical thinking is meticulously examining a social phenomenon, event, or problem by separating it into its constituent elements. Critical sociological-philosophical thinking is the examination of the

systematicity, consistency, and scientific nature of the final analysis and its overlap or contradiction with social reality in terms of the relationships, contradictions, mutual determination effects, processes, and results of this analyzed content in terms of its inter-elementary relations, consistency, scientific nature and its overlap or contradiction with social reality. The study conducted a limited analysis of the content developed based on Chat GBT, an artificial intelligence application for teaching sociology and philosophy in secondary education in Türkiye, a controversial and taboo subject whose content needs to be developed.

Sociology-Philosophy, Sociological-Philosophical Thinking

Sociology is a branch of social science that studies the structure and functioning of societies, social relations of individuals and groups, cultures, values, norms, institutions, and social change processes. Sociology tries to understand how people behave in a social context and the effects of society on individuals and social structures. On the other hand, philosophy works on systematic, consistent, logical, and rational thinking in every sense and field.

Sociology aims to understand society, offer solutions to social problems, and enable individuals to better understand their place in society. In addition, it aims to contribute to making society more just and functional by revealing social inequalities, injustices, and power relations. Philosophy guides sociology in terms of thinking skills in this sense.

Sociological thinking is a perspective that analyzes the behaviors, interactions, and places of individuals and groups in society to understand social events, processes, and structures. Sociological thinking aims to develop a perspective that places people in broader social contexts than their individual experiences. Philosophical thinking leads to sociological thinking by giving criteria.

The basic characteristics of sociological-philosophical thinking are as follows:

- 1. Understanding the Context: To understand the behaviors, thoughts, and feelings of individuals, one must consider the social conditions in which they are located. In other words, it evaluates the behaviors of a person or group not only on an individual level but within the framework of the general structural conditions and cultural influences of society.
- **2. Social Structures and Institutions:** Sociological-philosophical thinking questions the effects of social structures (such as family, education, economy, and politics) on individuals. For example, how do factors such as economic status, level of education, and gender shape people's lives?
- **3. Culture and Social Change:** Sociological-philosophical thinking helps to scientifically understand the culture of the society in which one lives and the processes and dynamics of social change.
- **4. Critical Thinking:** Sociological-philosophical thinking questions existing social norms and power relations. It goes beyond looking at the surface of any event or situation and examines how it connects to social inequalities, injustices, and historical processes.
- 5. Establishing Connections Between the General and the Specific: It attempts to understand how individual experiences intersect with social structures. For example, examining the relationship between an individual's job search experience and their country's unemployment rates, economic crises, and education system is an example of sociological thinking.

- **6. Empathy and Breadth of Perspective:** Sociological-philosophical thinking provides an understanding of people's lives in a broader context by establishing empathy between different social classes, cultures, ethnic groups, or genders.
- **7. Rational, consistent, and systematic thinking:** Sociological-philosophical thinking is primarily based on reason. Its discourses do not contradict each other, and they are not random. They are formed within a specific framework.

Analytical-Critical Sociological and Philosophical Thinking

Analytical and critical sociological-philosophical thinking is a way of thinking that aims to examine social events and phenomena in depth and in a questioning manner. This way of thinking relies on observations and superficial information and tries to understand social structures, power relations, and the place of individuals within these structures.

This way of thinking has several basic characteristics:

- 1. Analytical Thinking: Analytical thinking involves breaking down an event or phenomenon into pieces and examining each separately and carefully. Sociologically, the relationships between different layers of society, institutions, and individuals are analyzed this way. This approach helps to make complex social problems more understandable.
- **2. Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking means questioning existing norms, ideologies, and social structures. From a sociological perspective, it is important to critically evaluate social inequalities, power dynamics, and the effects of social structures on individuals. This often involves questioning the current social structure and considering alternative structures.
- **3. Sociological Perspective:** Sociological-philosophical thinking requires evaluating the behavior of individuals and social events at the individual level within the social structures and cultural context. It attempts to understand how individuals' behaviors are shaped by social factors such as class, race, and gender.
- **4. Aiming for Social Criticism:** Analytical and critical sociological-philosophical thinking emphasizes social inequalities, injustices, and problems. This way of thinking can be used as a tool for social change. It aims to develop ideas about how social structures can be made more just, equal, and humane.
- **5. Using Criteria:** Analytical and critical sociological-philosophical thinking relies on specific criteria when criticizing social and intellectual explanations. In this way, criticism ceases to be speculative.

Application Examples

The study determined an achievement included in the secondary school sociology course curriculum implemented in Türkiye as an application problem.

Achievement: The Importance of the Institution of Religion and the Secular State

In Türkiye, the institution of religion, religious life, religious sciences, religious culture, religious education, religion-politics, and religion-education relations have been socially debated. These discussions are primarily ideological and subjective discussions due to the nature of the subject. One of the most important discussions is the relationship between religion and secularism. In this context, the discussion is not scientific. Instead, it addresses the practices of secularism in Türkiye and the related problems regarding the parties' approaches to the subject.

The problem expected to be created about the achievement stated above was

created as follows:

- How can the importance of the secular state be explained while explaining the institution of religion in the sociology course at Kahramanmaraş Imam Hatip High School?

The elements emphasized in the problem should be carefully addressed. As a religiously conservative city, Kahramanmaraş is a type of school that provides religious education, and the emphasis on secularism, one of the fundamental religious, political, and ideological discussion topics and pedagogical taboo topics in Türkiye, is significant in this respect.

Application: The question expressed above has been loaded into the application. The answer is as follows:

In a school like Kahramanmaraş Imam Hatip High School, when the institution of religion is covered in the sociology course, explaining the importance of the secular state requires a careful and sensitive approach both socially and culturally. This issue is critical for understanding the relationship between religion and the state because secularism ensures that the state is independent of religious affairs and that religion does not affect state policies. In this context, the importance of the secular state can be discussed as follows:

1. Introduce the Concept of Secularism

First of all, the concept of secularism must be clearly defined. Secularism means that religion is kept separate from state affairs. In other words, it states that the state should be independent of religious beliefs and practices. Although religion has an important place in individuals' private and social lives, it should not be a determinant in the functioning and policies of the state.

Example: Secularism in Türkiye aims to separate religion and state from each other in the constitution and social structure. This protects religious freedoms and ensures that religion does not interfere with the administration of the state.

2. Explain the Role of the Secular State in the Institution of Religion

The emphasis is that a secular state leaves the institution of religion independent while ensuring the rights of individuals to practice their religious beliefs freely. A secular state provides equal rights for religion to every individual in society, preventing anyone from being discriminated against because of their religious beliefs. In addition, since religious communities and institutions do not fall under the state's sovereignty, they support all kinds of religious tolerance and diversity.

Example: In Türkiye, thanks to secularism, everyone can freely practice their religious beliefs and benefit equally from public services, education, and law. For example, although schools such as Imam Hatip High Schools provide a specific religious education, the secular structure of the state aims to ensure equality in all schools and among citizens.

3. The Contribution of the Secular State to Social Peace

A secular state ensures that people with different religious beliefs live together peacefully. It prevents religious differences from causing social conflicts because the state prevents religion from becoming a determining factor in social life and the public sphere.

Example: No one can interfere with another's religious beliefs in a secular state. Religious freedom and tolerance are increased. When people practice their different beliefs, the state's failure to take a religious side ensures social peace.

4. Consider the Relationship Between Religion and State from a

Historical Perspective

Explain historical examples of religious intervention in state affairs and how the secular state prevented this intervention. For example, you can explain the social structure of the Ottoman Empire during the period when religion and religious authorities were influential in state administration and how this influence decreased with the transition to a secular state.

Example: In the Ottoman Empire, sultans were the head of state and religious leaders. However, with the establishment of the Republic of Türkiye in the 20th century, the boundaries between religion and state became clear with the acceptance of secularism.

5. The Importance of Secularism Today

It would also be helpful to emphasize the importance of secularism today. Secularism, which protects individual freedoms and ensures social peace, plays a significant role, especially in multicultural and multi-religious societies.

Example: There is a social structure in Türkiye where different ethnic and religious groups live together. The secular state ensures all these groups have equal rights and freedoms, with their beliefs and lifestyles respected.

6. The Effects of Secularism on Society from a Sociological Perspective

Explain that a secular state ensures that religion and beliefs remain an individual choice while determining individuals' social roles and identities. You can also explain that thanks to secularism, religious affiliations are prevented from causing social inequalities in society.

Example: In a secular state, a person does not face difficulties such as being unable to find a job or discrimination in education due to their religious beliefs. This creates an egalitarian environment in society.

7. Explain the Balance Between Secularism and the Institution of Religion

A secular state supports the free practice of religion but simultaneously prevents religion from affecting the entire functioning of the state. This balance is important for ensuring social peace and for individuals to freely practice their religious beliefs.

A secular state is critically important for preserving social peace and individual freedoms. Separating religion and state helps ensure tolerance, equality, and justice. Therefore, secularism ensures the freedom of religion and the preservation of social order.

When explaining this topic, remember that students may have different perspectives and that it may be helpful to have discussions to encourage their questions.

Evaluation: When the content presented with the application is considered in terms of scope, system, main topics, subheadings, basic concepts, controversial content, methodology, pedagogical approach, and practical education, the following results can be reached:

- The problem has been presented with all its sociological and scientific aspects. There will be aspects where the content can be enriched.
 - The synthesis text covers the entire content.
 - The content is systematic and scientifically consistent.
 - The elements emphasized in the problem have been particularly highlighted.
 - The topic has been presented with all its historical and social aspects.

- Content appropriate to the developmental levels of the students has been presented.
 - The entire content has been concretized with examples.
 - Suggestions regarding the teaching method have been presented.
- The pedagogical practical approach, which should be considered in education in general and in teaching this topic in particular, has been particularly emphasized.

Conclusion

As a result, it has been seen that artificial intelligence can present content in this application analytically and critically with all its aspects. At this point, it should not be forgotten that artificial intelligence reveals this scope by synthesizing the infinite data the human mind presents. Undoubtedly, it is not the case for now that artificial intelligence solves a philosophical problem with the unique methodology of philosophy that can only be used by the human mind. Similarly, in solving a social issue with many cultural and historical specificity aspects, artificial intelligence can only present the relevant content by analyzing and synthesizing its existing data very well. At this point, the emphasis on the conservative social structure of Kahramanmaraş province in the content presented as an example shows that all data is broadly interpreted, meaningful relationships are established, inferences are made, and original results are presented.

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