Innovations. Anomie. Corruption: basic theoretical models

Abstract. Modern society is a global socio-cultural system included into the transformation of the world order traditional foundations. This process is associated with the active introduction of various innovations. Introduction of innovations is a global trend, which is being implemented in the conditions of the global cultural anomie. The norms of cultural matrices, which are being destroyed, are replenished with corruption normativity applicable to innovation activities. The article offers author’s theoretical system and structural models of corruption destructions of the innovation process in the context of socio-cultural anomie. The necessity of considering the problems of propensity of the environment for corruption through a theoretical verification of the phenomenon of the culture of corruption is proved. Interdisciplinary propositions of Universalism, Synergetics and complexity theory being adapted to the sociological problems comprise the methodological background of the research. Theoretical modelling method serves as a basic one. A compensatory-adaptive and stabilizing role of the corruption normativity of innovation activities in the conditions of socio-cultural environment anomie is revealed. In the absence of effective social and legal regulations of innovation activities, corruption parametric behaviour patterns strengthen the patterns of the culture of corruption. These two processes are interdependent and are in the relationship of circular causality.

Keywords: Anomie; Corruption; Innovations; Culture of Corruption

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However, «innovatization» (introduction of innovations) as a political and economic process shall be implemented within the framework of a certain regulatory environment, which is practically non-existent in the conditions of social anomie. In this case, in our opinion, dichotomous value and norm environment is filled with informal, often criminal norms, stabilizing the system, but having other value basis. Corruption (culture of corruption) is the most stable among such matrices. However, such events are enormous in terms of national scale in Russia in the process of privatization, which took place in the 90s of the 20th century. The results of that privatization are still met with a mixed response by the population [1]. For example, the problem of corruption and its impact on the innovation process is reflected in the comparative analysis of the situation in different countries, the results were published in one of the most authoritative global scientific journal «Nature» [2].

2. Statement of the research problem. The problem of the system interrelationship of innovation process, social anomie, and corruption at the level of macro-elements of the interdisciplinary complex parametric model of the hierarchical structure of social relations in an unstable socio-cultural environment of modern society, transiting to the post-industrial era under the slogan of innovations, has not been completely formulated and explained in the scientific theory.

3. Research objective. The objective of the research is to construct basic universal theoretical models of corruption dynamics and innovation process in the context of social anomie. The necessity to consider the problems of corruption through the category of the phenomenon of the culture of corruption as an institutional phenomenon, duplicating legitimate social structures of the state regulatory framework is substantiated.


The subjective aspect of the problem and the complexity of the behaviour predicting are based on the position of K. Mainzer (2011). According to him, nonlinear dynamics can generate complex states, which cannot be forecast for a distant horizon, i.e. there is a restriction of computability [13].

Synergistic principles are productive in relation to the objectives of the research [14]. For example, a successful application of the concept of order parameters in the socio-humanitarian aspect can be found in the works of H. Haken (1996) [15]. Such methodology is actively developing as shown in Synergetics [16], Memetics [17] and the like often grouped as cognitive systems [8].

5. Key research findings. To achieve the set objectives, it is necessary to define clearly the scope of the research. This scope includes a system comprising three basic macro-elements: innovations, anomie, and corruption. These elements are in procedural relations, have independent status and are integrative in the parametric system. It is necessary to uncover the essence of these provisions in detail.

We understand innovations as implementation of new developments reflecting a real transition of creative, usually scientific, technical or technological ideas from prospective state into actual state. It is this fact that differs them from the scientific inventions and discoveries. Innovation must acquire the status of cultural technology, otherwise, they will remain unclaimed, and either will die or will be «archived» until they are hypothetically claimed. However, to implement such a formula, it is necessary that this process will be perfect. Unfortunately, this is impossible now regular, which is practically non-existent in the conditions of social anomie. For example, the problem of corruption and its impact on the innovation process is reflected in the comparative analysis of the situation in different countries, the results were published in one of the most authoritative global scientific journal «Nature» [2].
other criminal methods, having the same criminal content as corruption, be spread so widely and so effectively?

The answer to these questions can be obtained after considering the process of the formation of corruption normativity within the social goal-attractor «order» on the visual example of the theoretical model (Figure 1).

In Figure 1, white circles denote legal means, grey circles (the smallest in size) denote corruption, black circles denote all other criminal (non-corrupt) means.

We see that the unstable regulatory environment (anomie) as the space of bifurcation creates a situation of choice accompanying innovations. In modern Russian society, there are three main types of choice: legal, illegal and non-corrupt, and illegal and corrupt. When opportunities are potentially equal, the process of choice passes through some social filters, which are presented in two types most relevant to the present situation: «success» filter and «legality» filter. The first one is based on the potential and actual degree of success of this or that type of choice as a criterion. The second one defines the criterion of the compliance of the choice with the official legal regulations. It is obvious that corruption passes the least complicated path to institutionalization. As a result, we illustrate the behavioural mechanism, the model of which outlines clearly the concept of the highest probability of a corrupt choice at the level of an individual, such as a bureaucratic decision and an implementer of innovative project or product (Figure 2).

Thus, content-related, structural and functional characteristics of the culture of corruption correlate to the state of socio-cultural anomie; they apply to all the levels of the social hierarchy.
up to the behavioural space of professional practices of its sub-
jects, in which ideologemes of innovative development are im-
plemented.

6. Conclusions. In the conditions of anomy (absence of
norms), corruption is not destructive in itself, because in the sys-
tem where it is a regulative, it contributes to the maintenance of
the social order. Corruption as a culture of relations, is de-
structive with regard to the system, in which it is recognized as
a destabilizing force for existing official regulatory order. Conse-
quently, when there are two parallel normative systems (corrup-
tion and law), having almost equal social potential and level of
implementation in socio-economic practice, they inevitably con-
flict through the content of their basic social codes. Furthermore,
if we assess the situation, for example, from the perspective of
D.S. Chernavsky’s (2001) information theory [23], one system of
social codes absorbs the other and becomes a basic one. In the
case under consideration, the culture of corruption does not ac-
nounce the status of a statutory, doctrinal regulatory matrix, but, in
fact, it is represented as an actual system of regulations, while
the statutory law acquires the status of the imitative and simula-
tive statutory form of legitimation of illegal forms of social prac-
tices of innovative development.

However, innovations often cannot become technologies of
mass consumption because of corruption6 as far as corrupt lob-
bying of old technologies allows extending the period of getting
profits from them instead of switching to the innovative ones.
Moreover, in the conditions of anomy of regulatory environment
society’s conformism is the highest because any innovation is
perceived as a particularly risky one, and, therefore, is rejec-
ted. Both authorities and population conformity also contribute
to corruption strengthening because it is the most ancient and ap-
proved form of successful illegal lobbying of conformist interests.

References

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