

# An interdisciplinary approach to the study of the concept of value

I. U. Minnikulov<sup>1\*</sup> and B. A. Babanov<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Uzbek State University of World Languages, 100138 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

<sup>2</sup>Academy of Internal Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 100197 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

<sup>3</sup>Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature named after Alisher Navoi, 100100 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Abstract.** We have studied the essence of the concept of value from the viewpoints of various disciplines and clarified its conceptual content. The essence of this concept is explained based on the principle of interdisciplinarity. In particular, this concept is defined and described within the framework of anthropology, philosophy, sociology, psychology, linguistics, and is characterized according to the fields of these sciences, and its conceptual content is consequently determined. The conceptual content of this notion is studied as a basic category that is an integral part of a person and his life, regardless of the field or object of science. We can note that value is an object of investigation of a wide varieties of disciplines on account of its importance in the life of a person. We claim that its interdisciplinary character can be substantiated by the following facts that values can be the basis for the formation of theories within various spheres of social life and they regulate social relations in the society as well as evaluate objects, phenomena, activities of the people of the society accordingly. It is reflected in language as a means of representing axiological information on people, their actions, objects, phenomena and etc.

## 1 Introduction

The concept of value as an object of study of social and humanitarian sciences has been studied from different perspectives: anthropology (Ton Otto and Rane Willerslev, 2013), sociology (Shalom H. Schwartz, 1999; Schwartz et al., 2012), cultural science (Hiroyuki Nemoto, 2011), philosophy, psychology (Shalom H. Schwartz, 1999; Schwartz et al., 2012), political science (Corey Brettschneider, 2006), linguistics (Alexandra Y. Aikhenwald, 2013; Ryan L. Boyd et al., 2015) and others. In this sense, it should be noted that this concept is comprehensive and important in terms of its content, and can be considered as a concept that is important in human life. After all, this concept is the main category that is an integral part of a person and his life, regardless of in which direction or discipline it is studied.

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\* Corresponding author: [mr.islom19@gmail.com](mailto:mr.islom19@gmail.com)

It is known that today the interdisciplinary approach is gaining special importance in the process of scientific knowledge of the world, and the principle of interdisciplinary is widely used in solving existing problems related to a certain science or field, studying them more deeply, and consistently researching their specific characteristics. The main reason for this is that some concepts, problems or events are considered not only as a study issue of one science or field, but also as a research object of a number of sciences and fields. As a result, the essence of this concept or phenomenon creates a complex structure and presents the problem of research based on the interdisciplinary principle. In particular, since the concept of value is the object of study in different fields, its descriptive characteristics are interpreted differently for representatives of different fields, and as noted in a number of studies, it does not have its own perfect definition. In our opinion, this particular problem can be solved to a certain extent if the essence of this concept is analyzed based on the interdisciplinary principle. The concept of value has been the object of study of various disciplines in various fields. In particular, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, philosophy, psychology, politics, law, linguistics, etc. In these areas, the concept of value has been studied to a certain extent and has its own definition and description. In this article, we use the principle of interdisciplinarity to clarify the essence and functions of this concept.

## **2 Methodology**

This article is devoted to the scientific-theoretical study of one of the problems in the field of linguistics. Its purpose is the interpretation of the concept of value within the framework of various disciplines, as well as the scientific-theoretical justification of its interpretation and essence within the framework of linguistics. Based on the purpose of the research, the research methods were selected and used. The following general logical and theoretical methods were used in the research: general logical methods: analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction; theoretical methods: generalization, abstraction. Linguistic analysis methods such as linguistic description, analytical analysis, definitional analysis, and conceptual-semantic analysis were also used. The research is theoretical in nature and is based on this approach in the implementation of the goals and tasks set for itself. The study of the research object is based on the principle of interdisciplinarity.

## **3 Results and discussion**

In this part of the study, we will analyze the fact that the notion of value is the object of different disciplines and study it from different points of view, and we will discuss the results.

From the anthropological point of view, it can be seen that all the problems related to the concept of value are inextricably linked with the issues of ethics and aesthetics as Ton Otto and Rane Willerslev state. Value is such a concept that it creates ethnographic issues and ideas and is also considered to be a component of cultural issues [14]. It is clear that value from an anthropological point of view, on the one hand, is related to issues of human ethics, and on the other hand, it represents people and their culture, customs, traditions and mutual differences, and it is a concept which gives some information on them. Also, as Uzbek linguist M. Solijonov admits, the culture of the people is reflected in the language, in which the values are also characteristic of a certain nation and are expressed in the language of that nation [13].

In this regard, it should be noted that David Graeber interprets the concept of value from an anthropological point of view, and sees it as the relevance or importance of actions. That

is, actions are evaluated, not things [3]. This means that values are manifested in actions and indicate the level of importance or significance of actions.

Taking into account the social side of the issue, the concept of value is theoretically based as follows: the essence of the word value is determined by social processes, because such processes are complex and endless and complement each other in various ways. For humans, then, meaning is seen as a matter of comparison. The difference between things or actions, that is, the meaningful difference, is embodied when they are compared with each other. Understanding value is always a process of comparison. It is clear that the meaning and value of things and actions can be seen when they are compared.

According to David Graeber, the following three conditions play an important role in the formation of the essence of the concept of value today: a) according to the sociological condition, value is the concept of what is good, right or desirable in human life; b) from an economic point of view, value (value) is measured by the necessity and relevance of objects, especially by how much others are willing to give up to achieve them; d) in the linguistic aspect, the value goes back to Ferdinand de Saussure's views of structural linguistics and can be described as *meaningful* differences. Therefore, sociological, economic and linguistic reasons have gained importance in the origin of the current descriptive features of the concept of value. David Graeber sees the following similarity and commonality in the definitions of the concept of value in these areas: actions are meaningful (valuable) because they are important, actions are important because they are meaningful (valuable). It should be noted here that, according to David Graeber, the theoretical analysis of values or value systems is mainly limited to philosophy (axiology) and sociology [3]. It is clear from this that no matter in which aspect we study the concept of value, the theoretical foundations of this concept were developed by the sciences of philosophy and sociology.

According to Michael R. Hill, from a sociological perspective, values are the basis for knowledge-producing systems and social projects. Values are embedded in the meta-scientific outlook of sociological theories. There is no sociology without value [7]. So, it can be said that the value in a certain sense can serve as a basis for generating knowledge and creating projects. This is especially true in the sociological aspect. They can also be the basis for sociological theories. And, to a certain extent, it becomes important in solving axiological problems in the field of sociology.

The concept of value can also be interpreted from the political viewpoint as follows: the formation of theories about politics and democracy should be built on the basis of fundamental or basic values. These values are directly reflected in the activities of political institutions. And, as a result, values such as freedom of speech, the rule of law, equal treatment of all people are considered democratic values [2]. It is known that values are the basis for the formation of specific theories within a certain field and play an important role in the emergence of certain values for representatives of this field.

Corey Brettschneider states that the fundamental values of democracy have their tasks: according to the value of equality of interests, the legitimate interests of citizens must be respected equally; the main function of the value of political autonomy is to increase the role of citizens as individual managers in society or their participation in deciding how to formulate policies through democratic procedures. The value of reciprocity serves to advance the notion that rational policies governing the behavior of citizens must be defended by appeals to arguments that citizens can accept [2]. It is clear that values have their own tasks, no matter what field they belong to. Such tasks include measures such as guiding people in the society or guiding them in the right direction.

From a functional point of view, the concept of value is interpreted as a means of managing actions. Values are able to be a good resource for directing action and changing situations and circumstances for the better. Among the various types of values, the values

that have the highest potential in daily activities are the values that guide moral behavior [12:295-296]. Therefore, values have the power to control actions, change situations and circumstances, and even serve as a resource for performing such tasks.

The concept of value is of fundamental importance in the field of philosophy. From this point of view, aspects of value can be manifested in: ethics (morality) and aesthetics (beauty). The ethical side of the concept of value is manifested when actions are evaluated by people as good/bad, right/wrong and worthy of praise/blame, while its aesthetic side is seen in the expression of beauty of folk crafts and art. In this case, the aesthetic aspect of value is important in the evaluation and study of material culture, while its ethical aspect is important in the study of non-material culture [5]. It is clear from this that the concept of value can be expressed as an axiological category with its ethical and aesthetic aspects. In this case, value can be understood as a tool for evaluating and studying material and non-material culture.

The concept of value can also be defined from a legal point of view. In particular, according to Mikhail Permilovsky, the goal of the axiological approach to the right to a comfortable environment is to reconsider the attitude of the current government and society to environmental problems, its impact on people, and ultimately to improve legislation and legal documents. The author explains the basis for this as follows: studying the right to a comfortable environment from the perspective of values allows us to talk about its priority, while creating a basis for regulating social relations that arise in connection with the environment [8]. With this opinion, the author recognizes not the general axiological concept, but the legal values. Therefore, it can be concluded that if people's legal values develop, their relationship to the environment and society will change. Also, as the author admits, value can be described from an ecological point of view. In this regard, ecological value is seen by people as something that is important to the environment [8]. In addition, value is defined from the constitutional point of view, in which it is the rule of law; justice and equality; democratic, federal, legal and social state; separation of powers, parliamentarism; explained by legal economy. It is clear from this that values are important for all spheres of society and to a certain extent regulate relations in society.

Value has its own definition and description in the field of business. In particular, in this context, it is interpreted as one of the many social norms and rules that regulate the interaction of industry subjects (producer, consumer, etc.). Such norms are divided into formal (laws, rules, etc.) and informal (customs, traditions, etc.), values are recognized as informal norms. After all, informal norms are usually determined by the concept of ethics - entrepreneurship ethics, business ethics, banking ethics, medical ethics, journalistic ethics, etc. [6]. It is understood that the concept of value is a social norm that regulates relations between industry participants in the business sector. The authors also note that business values are based on principles of universal etiquette (ethics) [6:264]. In this case, the general ethical standards are coordinated according to the social roles of business. In this sense, the following are valued in business: reliable relationships, efficient service and trust based on mutual interests. It seems that business ethics (value) is based on universally recognized moral principles and instead adapts them to its own characteristics. Therefore, values exist in different fields and are in accordance with the characteristics of these fields. Each industry, each social group, each person can have their own value and value system.

The basis of the psychological approach to the phenomenon of values is the superiority of certain mental expressions that arise in the process of objective action over value. That is, the idea that value is built on the basis of spiritual processes and spiritual existence is put forward [4]. As scientists who studied value from a psychological point of view, A. Meinong, K.I. Lewis, R.B. Perry, J. Dewey are acknowledged. Evgenia A. Smolii et al., noted that According to R.B. Perry's research, value is defined as an object of interest, a definition that expresses the position of a thing in relation to interest. In this regard, R.B.

Perry divides values not based on traditional classifications such as "truth", "beauty" and "goodness", but into the function of interest and institutional structures and classifies them as follows: cognitive, moral, economic, political, aesthetic, religious. It seems that value has its own definition and description psychologically, and according to this point of view, value is considered as an object of interest and is classified based on the function of interest and institutional form rather than traditional classification.

According to Alexandra Y. Aichenwald, a foreign linguist, the concept of value is multifaceted, and the good, correct, desirable things in human life are valued. It is clear from this that this concept defines a good, correct, desired thing, event or action for people in their life paths. According to him, values are verbalized in language through these things, events and actions. This problem is related to the linguistic issue of the concept of value.

Values are criteria that determine people's daily actions, personal thoughts and actions, and guide their decision-making. Values have their own structure, measurement scale, and can interact with human behavior [11]. It turns out that values are social norms or criteria that affect daily human behavior: thinking, action, decision-making, and their structure, measurement parameters. It is a concept closely related to behavior. Also, as it is interpreted as a social norm or criterion that affects the daily behavior of a person, that is, the way of thinking, acting, making decisions and other activities, then the behavior of people is guided by its values, and as a result, evaluated on a positive or negative scale.

Values are defined as means of representing some axiological knowledge and information in linguistics. Particularly, according to I.U.Minnikulov, conditional sentences in English can verbalize some fundamental human values like power, benevolence, security, achievement, hedonism, self-direction, stimulation, conformity, universalism in a particular context [9]. It is clear from this that conditional relationships as axiological language units have the potential of verbalizing values.

In addition, I.U.Minnikulov claim that axiological features of conditional sentences in Uzbek can be determined by the followings: a) conditional sentences in Uzbek can verbalize some values and anti-values in a particular context; b) conditional sentences in Uzbek can verbalize some values such as achievement, hospitality, richness; c) conditional sentences in Uzbek can verbalize some anti-values such as swear, betrayal, badness, injustice [10]. So, in linguistics, values are regarded as means of representing axiological information and knowledge on actions, things, objects and phenomena.

Based on the analysis of the interdisciplinary character of the concept of value, we can formulate the following table representing the essence, functions of the notion *value* from different disciplinary perspectives (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Interdisciplinary description and functions of the concept of value

<b>Sciences</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Function</b>
Anthropology	a concept related to human manners and culture	forms human manners and culture
Sociology	a concept related to social processes, such processes are a complex structure of mutual relations	coordinates social processes, relations
Politics	a concept related to politics and democracy, the basis of political theories	functions as the basis of political and democratic theories
Philosophy	a concept related to ethics (morality) and aesthetics (beauty)	functions as the basis of ethics and aesthetics
Law	a basis for regulating social relations	regulates social relations
Economics	many social norms regulating the interaction of industry representatives	regulates the mutual relations of industry

		representatives
Psychology	a concept related to spiritual existence, mental processes	regulates spiritual existence, spiritual processes
Linguistics	a concept related to language expression of the good, correct, desirable things in human life	reflects the good, correct and desired things in human life

It is clear from the content of the table that the concept of value is an integral part of a person and his life, it coordinates it and directs a person to the right path. It forms the basis of human activity.

## 4 Conclusion

Thus, the following conclusions can be formed as a result of the research:

- 1) from an anthropological point of view, value, on the one hand, is related to the issues of human ethics, and on the other hand, it represents people and their culture, customs, traditions and mutual differences, and they carry an evaluative-informative content on them;
- 2) values are the basis for the formation of certain theories within a certain field and play an important role in the emergence of certain values for representatives of this field;
- 3) the concept of value can be expressed as an axiological category with its ethical and aesthetic aspects. In this case, value can be understood as a tool for assessing and studying material and non-material culture. From a linguistic viewpoint, values are axiological categories by means of evaluation of activities, actions, objects, phenomena, people they are verbalized in language;
- 4) values are of interdisciplinary character as they are important for all areas of society and to a certain extent regulate relations in society.

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