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CLASSIFICATION OF PERIPHERIES IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

The article highlights the classification of peripheries as the objects of social and geographical research. The notion of “periphery” and “centre” (core) as the core categories of the “core-periphery” concept is proposed by the author.

Key words: *periphery, core, classification, human geography.*

Пилипенко І. Класифікація периферій в соціально-економічній географії

У статті освітлюється класифікація периферій як об'єктів соціально-географічного дослідження. Автором запропоновані поняття «периферія» та «центр» в якості центральних категорій концепту «центр-периферія».

Ключові слова: *периферія, центр, класифікація, соціально-економічна географія.*

Пилипенко И. Классификация периферий в социально-экономической географии

В статье высветлена классификация периферий как объектов социально-географического исследования. Автором предложены понятия «периферия» и «центр» как центральные категории концепта «центр-периферия».

Ключевые слова: *периферия, центр, классификация, социально-экономическая география.*

The most characteristic feature of nowadays social and geographical space is the sum of economical and geographical, social and geographical, political and geographical, even mental and cultural forms of social managing, which are reflected in emergence of unique geo-spatial connections of different objects, processes and phenomena within the system of “nature-population-house holding”. The actuality of this research, based on the understanding the periphery as a part of geo-space, and the phenomena periphery as its inherence, comes out from the necessity of deeper investigation of geo-spatial social managing variety.

Despite of the subdivision of the regions according to the forms, types, scales, their centre-peripheral structure is defined in many cases by the similar characteristics, features, aims. In social geography the main objects of research are the notions of centre and centrality (place, events, phenomena, process etc.). Although it is widely accepted that centers are more influential on social development, peripheral regions on their hand are larger by the scale, quantity and variety. Consequently, periphery as the complex and ambiguous

object of research demands special attention. The shortage of theoretical and methodological elaboration of this issue in Ukrainian social geography foregrounds the definite task of a research – classification of the periphery and the peripheral.

From the appearance of the social geography development the researching of such categories as “periphery – centre”, “peripheral – central”, “core – environment” are of great interest. The models of “centre – periphery” type can be traced in all basic concepts and theories, which describe the development of agricultural land acquiring, levels of economical and social development, territorial social managing. Though, even now there are different views on theory of periphery and peripheral, beginning from classic and traditional, on the one hand, and modern ones – on the other.

The deepest researches based on the analysis of concepts and terms in the conceptual field of “centre – periphery” system, are presented in the papers of Ukrainian and foreign scholars.

In the Ukrainian and foreign social geography along with the high developed theory of central objects and phenomena building, more attention



is turned onto centers and their development, and location specifics. At the same time, the theory of periphery and peripheral has not been formed yet, while the dynamics of social and geographical space causes the demand on researching of different forms and types of social and geographical peripheries at all.

This determines the aim of the research – to highlight theoretical classification of peripheries for objectivation of further empiric works.

Every science somehow classifies the variety of researched objects and phenomena. The science as itself is the classified knowledge. Scientific classification is of great importance both in the theory, and in the practice of social and geographical researches. This makes an opportunity to trace an order in researched phenomena, to sum up the knowledge about their similarity and differentiation, to make the researching process easier and determination of their internal regularities – faster.

The understanding that social and geographical peripheries researching is of vital necessity leads to the development of periphery classification in social geography. The analyses of social and geographical, political, social and economical sources of information shows both the variety in denoting such concepts as “centre”, “periphery”, “peripheral”, and absence of their unified classification.

Well known Ukrainian researcher of centrism and centricity in geography Shevchenko V.O. (2006) denotes the periphery as the most distant from the centre places (points), which surround the centre. The relation “centre – periphery” he characterizes by such features as:

1) The presence of periphery denotes an opportunity of centre finding. Centers and peripheries can be found/denoted/calculated as a conventional (out of spatial definiteness), or as a definite (the location is presented as a triaxial coordinates, strict explanation, visual form etc.)

2) The researching of centrality phenomena presents a definite genetic relatedness of centers and peripheries, which can exist in three forms:

- Temporal definiteness. The bright example – while trail orienteering the person is in the imagined (temporal) centre of the territory (World). The periphery is temporal and indefinite too – that is a horizon, imagined circle line;

- Conventional definiteness. Such forms are indicative for real and searching (conceptional)

centrism – the centre is defined spontaneously, purposely unassigned in space that is why the periphery is washed out and is not strictly defined. For example, central part of the country and distant communities; centre of the city and its suburbs etc.;

- Absolute definiteness. This form of genetic relatedness appears in relation to the centre and periphery in case, when they are defined mathematically.

3) Specific feature of relation “center – periphery” is a fractional centrality both central and peripheral points. This feature is an attribute of centers and peripheries, which is why it can be formed in such a way: every center from different points of view transforms into periphery and in reverse. The Earth as a planet is imagined as a centre of universe, especially, during night sky observation. But observation of the night sky photo with constellations, which are seen only in the sub polar latitudes and are taken in definite conditions, proves that we are on the periphery of the Universe.

Periphery as a place (point of territory) is proposed to classify according to the next features: precision of location (absolute and washed out or conventional peripheries); demonstrativeness of existence (fixed and non-fixed); territorial representativeness (one-sided, presenting only one territory; two-sided – present two territories; in accordance – three-sided etc.).

It is proposed to consider the periphery that can be defined according to the definite specific features as an absolute: the continental periphery – according to the sea line; the country periphery – according to the line of borders etc. The concept of washed out or conventional periphery appears because of indefiniteness of its location relating to the centre. As an example – its everyday understanding: “Somewhere, on the periphery”, that is indefinite, but far from the centre.

The demonstrativeness of existence characteristic of periphery is connected with symbolic signs, monuments etc, which fix the location of peripheral points. As specific symbolic signs the near-border posts can be taken, they fix the supreme (peripheral) points of every country. In this case – it is also fixed periphery.

Territorial representativeness of peripheries is indicated in analyze relating to the territories

they present. Periphery can present at least (and commonly) one territory, e.g. sea line (or one point – cape) presents only one territory (continent). However, at the same time, this line presents a definite water area too. Taking into account that in this case periphery belongs to two different areas (ground and water), such a periphery can be taken as a conventional one-sided. It is obvious, that absolutely one-sided periphery cannot exist at all. It would be logical to name the peripheries belonging to several territories as two-sided, three-sided etc.

It should be underlined that the understanding of periphery and peripheral as antipode to the centre in this case is, in our opinion, a little bit constricted. Social and geographical understanding of periphery foresees not only geometrical definiteness of its location, borders (that is metrification), but a specific of its forming essence, development staging, components, genesis and other.

Analyzing and zoning the territorial structure of Europe O.V. Gritsay, G.V. Ioffe, O.I. Traywish (1991) subdivide in this area sub regions with different levels of territorial concentration, character and dynamic of economical development, deepness of territorial work division. In their works three main hierarchal types and subtypes of rayons are defined (central, semi-central and peripheral). Common level of economical development, the degree of involvement in territorial work division and attitude to the innovation processes were chosen as main criteria. Every micro-type includes several main subtypes in relation to the historical, genetic and modern features of their functional structure. In conclusion there is such a classification of centers, peripheries and semi-peripheries:

I. Central rayons including:

1. Multifunctional rayons of capital type with the leading role of quarter sector and working specifically capital (political and ideological, cultural and consolidated) functions. As a rule, these rayons were formed around main historical cores of urbanization, which existed even in the ancient and medieval times. Successfully going through all the stages of industrial development, they were adapting to different conditions, and, as a result, had formed a diversify structure of industry with the prevailing spheres of scientific and technical progress (STP). The rayons of capital type usually have a strict hierarchal spatial structure (central city – suburbs with

small and medium centers – outer periphery) and very high density of economical activity.

2. Highly urbanized central rayons with diversify structure of house holdings and dominating spheres of STP, which approach the structure of capital rayons, but with more expressed prevailing of industrial functions. Genetically and morphologically they have a lot of common traits with capital rayons, but their influence, as a rule, is weaker and limited by the frames of national boards.

II. Semi-peripheral rayons, including:

1. Old industrial rayons with mixed, but weakly diversified structure of economic. Being the first industrial bonfires in their countries (in classic variant – with dominating textile and related spheres of 1-st cycle), they experienced the periods of depression and success. The connections with machine building, chemical and other industries, detached separate rayonbuilding centers from numerous small centers.

2. Old industrial rayons that were also formed during the first industrial revolution, with prevailing heavy industry and weakly diversified economy. These are the rayons with semi-central territorial structure of basinal type. Most of them in the result of developed spheres shortage are experiencing the stagnation or crisis (including ecological), and only several of them are able for transformations based on the usage of traditions and historical experience in industrial development.

3. Rayons and bonfires of old industrialization, which appeared on the base of traditional regional (administrative and trade) centers. All of them have experienced the periods of decay and reincarnation, especially in the spheres of 4-th and 5-th cycles, which demand high infrastructural and informational territorial preparing.

4. Rayons of relatively new industrialization with high rate of industrial and population increasing, commonly based on 3-rd and 4-th cycles, and with different historical background – from classical agricultural to the administrative and trade.

5. Areal, recently specialized on scientific and recreational functions, which were in the past commonly rural or weakly urbanized, and now are located in resort places or on the periphery of large central rayons.

III. Peripheral rayons, including:

1. High developed agrarian rayons with intense agricultural activities prevailing, which



provide a large part of food products in their countries.

2. Weakly developed rayons with prevailing of weakly tradable activities, extensive land use with high level of employment in agricultural activities and in related spheres, and in the number of cases, even in basic spheres of industry (extraction of raw materials, metallurgy, petrochemicals), concentrated in rare industrial centers.

3. Rayons of enduring resource invasion with the heavy industry bonfires and formed (commonly medium urbanized) settlement system.

4. Rayons of new resource invasion with low level of population density and separate areals of mining, forest and hydro energy industries, of course on the background of traditional northern craft.

Supposed typological scheme, as any other one, is conventional, but it should be underlined that despite of the high level of development, it is able to classify the centers and peripheries only in certain part of geospace – the Europe territory. In addition to this, there exists a certain demand of common scheme of periphery classification according to the number of features and criteria – geospatial scales, mechanisms of creation, components etc.

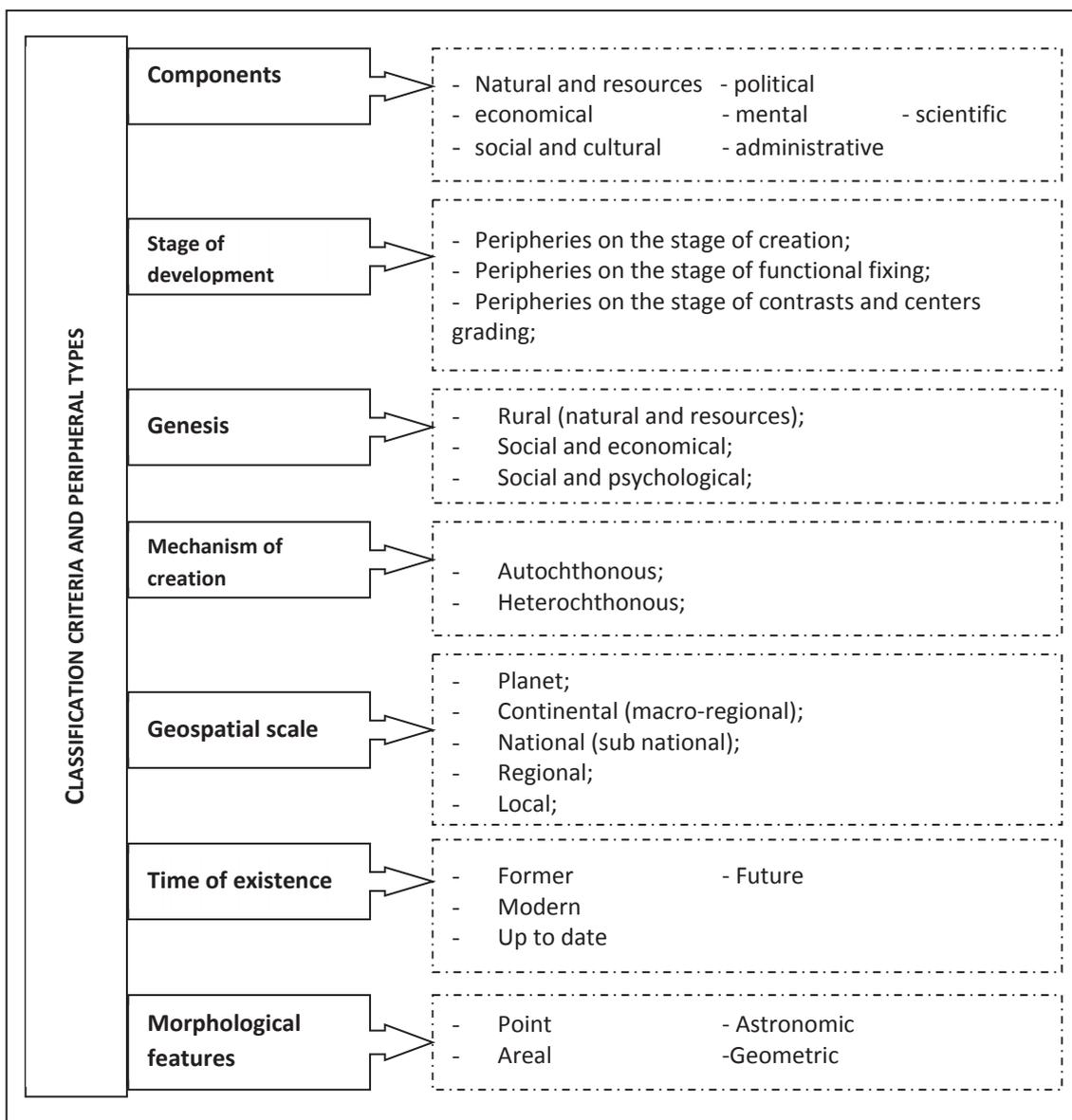


Fig. 1. Classification of peripheries in social geography

Developed by Pylypenko I.O.

Our understanding of center and periphery allows to form such terms (Pylypenko I. (2006, 2009, 2013):

Social and geographical periphery – is a part of social space, where the speed of social and geographical processes is minimal or their vector does not coincide with the vector of social life core development. In addition to this, large and medium cities belong to these cores.

Instead of this, social and geographical center is understood as a part of social and geographical region, which has functional connections with its base of development (firstly, periphery) and, in contrast to other parts of region, excels in social attractiveness, high concentration of social processes and phenomena, which are constantly complicating. Despite of this, an important characteristic of Center is correspondence of its features to specialized differentiation traits (features) – geotaxis and geosystems of objective or subjective character.

To sum up the present experience in researching of periphery as an element of geospace (a peripheral as a feature), it is considered expedient to extend and complement the present classification of this complex and various social and geographical phenomena (fig. 1).

So, the content of “center – periphery” relations is often connected with the inequality of distribution of managing functions and innovations recreation across the territory, but collectively the speech is about contrasts of any origin inside the country, because every phenomena and every process has its own center and periphery, caused by the level of phenomena development (more developed center and less developed periphery), or by the place of its origin (center as a place of phenomena creation, “donor”, periphery as an “acceptor”).

It should be emphasized that, as a rule, peripheral as a feature of certain territory is a multifacet phenomena, because in any periphery there are different consequences and causes of stagnation of social and geographical processes.

In social geography center and centrality (places, events, phenomena, processes etc.) are the main objects of researching. Periphery is a complex and ambiguous object and demands individual attention, as the peripheral regions are larger than centers according to the area and population and are the basis for material development of center.

Under the influence of “centroegoistic positions”, modern conceptions of “center – periphery” identify the center and other phenomena as main objects of researching, that emphasize the necessity of periphery researching. Proposed classification of peripheries may become the basis (starting point) for diversified and multifacet researching of different genesis, scale and other peripheries.

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