

Summary

The aim of this thesis is to analyse the application of the category of affordances in describing functioning of the subject in the natural and social environment, to analyse Margaret Archer's conception of the subject and its interaction with the environment, and to assess the possibility of using affordances within the framework of critical realism (represented by Archer). The dissertation is based on the hypothesis that despite the differences in the ontological assumptions made in Margaret Archer's critical realism and James Gibson's ecological psychology, the broadly defined category of affordances may be a useful tool for describing the human's interaction with the environment, within the framework of the concept formulated by Archer.

The first chapter analyses the category of affordances, set it in the original context of James Gibson's ecological psychology, and describes its subsequent interpretations and applications. The second chapter discusses the entanglement of affordances in the socio-cultural dimension, analysing the presence of categories of social and cultural affordances in the literature, as well as setting them in the context of the question of the role of the social environment in the process of the constitution of the self. The third chapter characterises Margaret Archer's approach, with particular emphasis on her layered model of the human being. For this purpose, the chapter outlines the basic elements of critical realism as a metatheory of social science, presents the most important aspects of Archer's model from the perspective of the paper, and describes the main terms. The fourth chapter analyses the possibility of using the category of affordances in critical realism, based on a detailed characterisation of examples of the use of the concept of affordances by critical realists.

The subject of the paper focuses on traditionally philosophical problems in the fields of philosophical anthropology, social ontology and social cognition. At the same time, the thesis is based on the analysis of concepts developed within sociological, psychological and cognitive research, which situates it in the area of interdisciplinary research on subjectivity and the significance of environment in its formation.

Keywords: affordances; ecological psychology; embodiment; critical realism; agency; subjectivity; human-environment interaction; sociotechnical structures