

1. Preliminary lecture

Tasks of praxeology

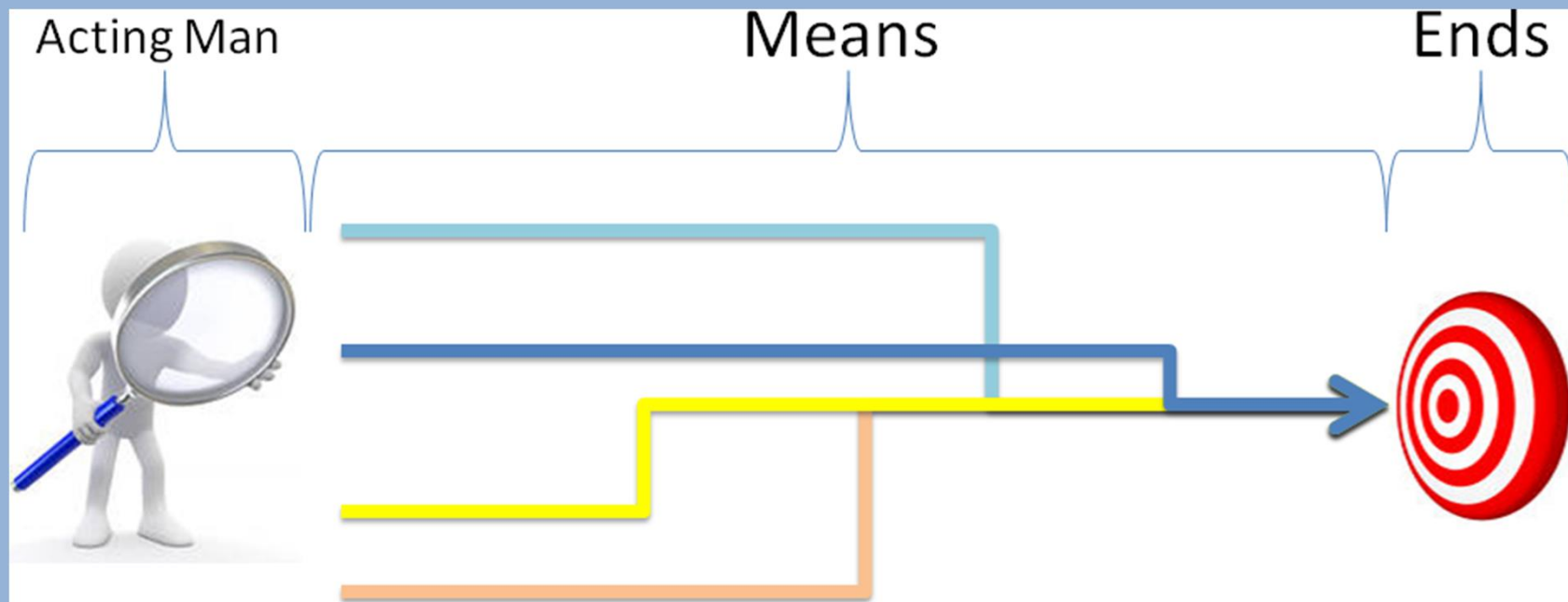
Praxeology (gr. *praxis* - a work of art, *ergon* - actions) is a general theory of effectiveness (i.e. rational and effective action), a field of scientific research concerning methods of all purposeful actions of people (for this reason also called the general method). Praxeology assumes that there are individuals, even in an organization.

Tasks of praxeology:

- explaining concepts,
- formatting theorems,
- finding theorems,
- substantiation of claims,
- systematization of theorems,
- the use of theorems.

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Praxeology and organisational theory



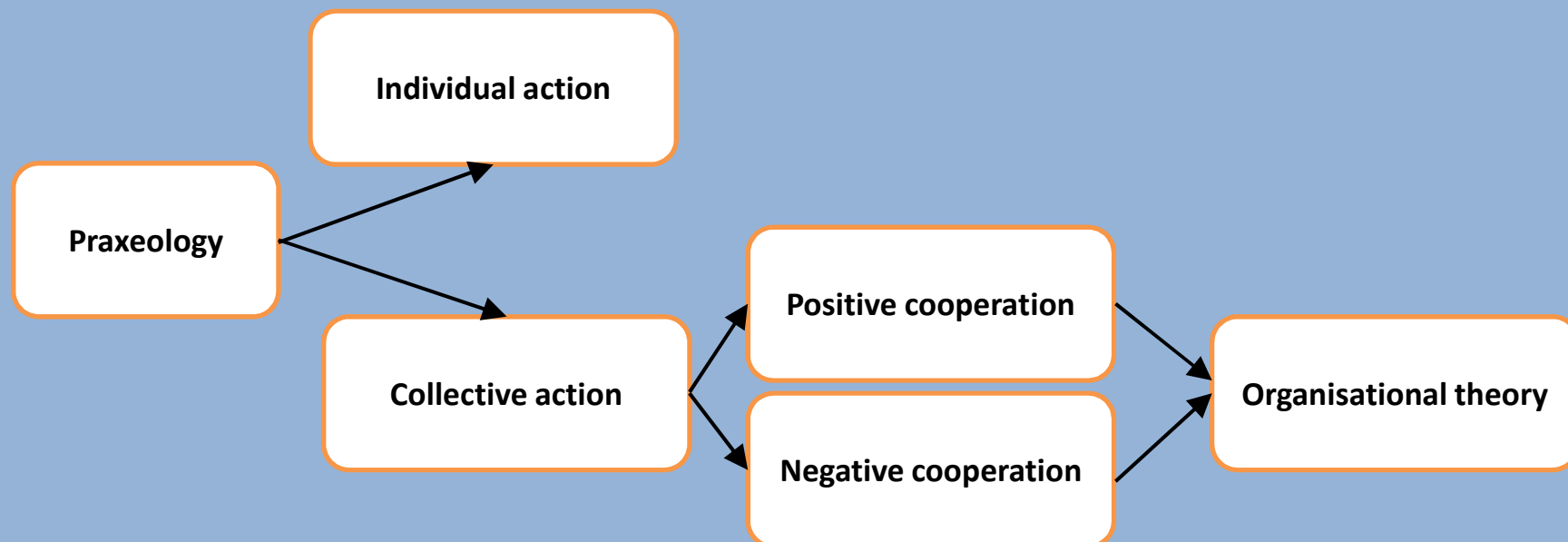
Praxeology->Economics is the analysis of the means applied for the attainment of an end sought. *Praxeology is objective. The End is subjective.*

“Since nobody is in a position to substitute his own value judgments for those of the acting individual, it is vain to pass judgment on other people’s aims and volitions.” – Pg 19, Human Action ~ Ludwig von Mises

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Praxeology and organisational theory

A diagram showing the relationship between praxeology and the theory of the organization.



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Basic concepts concerning praxeology

Method - a repetitive mode of action, applied systematically to a particular type of thing/object. Methods can be general and specific. General methods are dealt with by praxeology, i.e. general methodology and general methodology of sciences.

Technique of action - this is a method of action more detailed than the method, applicable to a narrower scope.

The aim in praxeology is the action intended by the perpetrator.

An act is an event that is a deliberate behaviour of a human being in a specific period of time.

A simple act - an event which is an intentional behaviour of a human being in a specified period of time. An external act is expressed by the movement of the subject's body, the internal act is a mental effort.

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Basic concepts concerning praxeology (cont.)

Complex act - occurs when we are dealing with positive or negative cooperation, i.e. one activity results from another or makes it possible or frustrates - simply there is a connection between two or more activities.

Human action - is deliberate, conscious and arbitrary human behaviour. If we assume that intentional action is always conscious, it is enough to say that action is intentional behaviour.

Material - before the material becomes the object of action and finds itself in the product, it is a potential material, then it becomes a current material. In the praxeological sense it is not only inanimate objects but also people. For example, the teacher's material is his pupils, and the potter's material is a portion of clay.

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Basic concepts concerning praxeology (cont.)

The perpetrator - is an acting subject, a person behaving consciously and intentionally.

A means - is an act, which is a component of an action, which is already performed or will be performed to achieve the ultimate goal being pursued, is an intermediate goal in relation to the ultimate goal.

A creation - is an object, the creation of which is the result of an action. Products of the mind are distinguished from external, material products, which we call products.

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Performance testing concepts

The main issue of praxeology is increasing efficiency and avoiding disability.

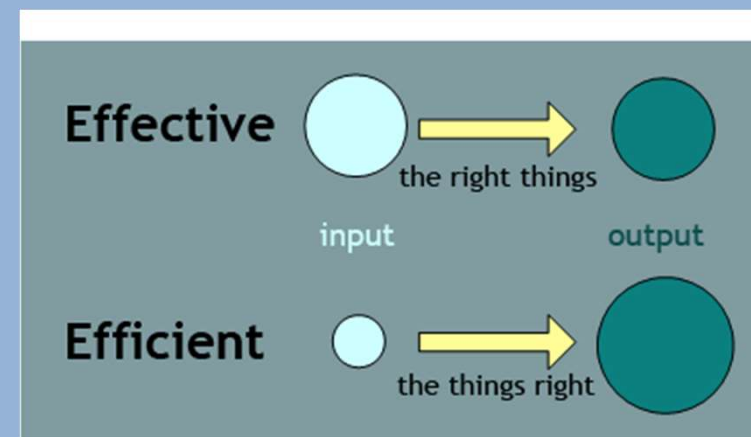
Performance and its evaluation are studied in the following terms:

Effectiveness - positively assessed conformity of the result with the objective.

Effectiveness is an efficiency in a universal sense and a basic component of efficiency in a collective sense.

Cost-effectiveness assumes the use of only as many resources as necessary. In the case of work, it is a minimal action to achieve the goal, e.g. elimination of unnecessary movements during work on the assembly line.

$$\text{Effectiveness} = \frac{\text{Achieved}}{\text{Desired}}$$



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Performance testing concepts (cont.)

The next notions examining the efficiency of action and its evaluation are:

Rationality - in the factual sense, adaptation to the truth, to the circumstances, and in the methodological sense, it is the conformity of proceeding with the total information available. When preparing an action, rationality is based on a theoretical basis. A rational action in the material sense is always effective, while in the methodological sense, an "ex ante" rational action may prove ineffective "ex post".

Trustworthiness/reliance - a person who can be relied on, i.e. he or she will behave as we expect - he or she will perform the task and will take care of people in need of his or her help. According to Kotarbiński, the ethical ideal is a carer you can always rely on.

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Performance testing concepts (cont.)

The next notions examining the efficiency of action and its evaluation are:

Simplicity - a feature of an object that is an element, in the case of a complex object that has a small number of undifferentiated elements due to its features and relations between them. Simplicity is a relative concept, which for one person is simple, for another is complicated. Simplicity is the essence of an organisation because it leads more quickly to the goal.

Success - effectiveness in terms of side effects. If two products accomplish their tasks, i.e. meet the main goal, e.g. two cars are used to move, then the more successful is the one that meets them better (i.e. is safer, more comfortable, hence Mercedes is a more successful product than Skoda).

Preparation - (preparation) action before performing the proper/correct action.

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Performance testing concepts (cont.)

Vigour/vitality/energy - a feature of a person who gains enough energy to spend to achieve the goal. The one that activates at least all the means that are necessary to achieve the goal is energetic.

Accuracy - a measure of the efficiency of practical use under certain conditions, which are available to specific precise means. The more accurate a product is, the less it differs from the pattern.

Certainty - a firm conviction that this was and will be the case in relation to one's own actions. It is a conviction that a certain way of acting with the use of given resources will lead to the goal.

Reliability - a chance of efficient functioning of the equipment, the ability to meet the requirements. It is non-stageable. Man or object are reliable or are not, i.e. they meet the requirements for the whole required period of time or not.