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The paper presents the research problem, which must absolutely be solved. Formal problem formulations are formulated, and then transformed into other, more appropriate forms. A short survey of the existing (and lacking) literature of the subject shows that there is, actually, nothing to write (home) about. Thus, a different subject is proposed, which will be taken up by the authors in the consecutive publications of the present authors, tracing new development and research paths.

1. Introduction

Many problems of contemporary world arises the interest not only of the scientists, but also of (some) other representatives of the human species (see Winnstone, 2000). Hence, questions abound, while sensible answers by no means.

That is why problems should be formulated very carefully, especially when taking the form of questions, since it is exactly the diversity of formulations that constitutes one of the sources of the uncertainty, indefiniteness and unknowing that haunt us. The present authors decided to take up this issue and display it for the unprepared Reader in the possibly most adequate way.

Let us emphasise, simultaneously, that in view of the shortness of the present novel text the authors do not leave any room for doubt (neither for themselves, nor for the venerable Readers).

2. Formulations of problems

The problems that we face, both practical and theoretical (the face-to-face position with respect to any given scholar does not compromise the generality of the considerations herein), taken up in conformity with the understanding presented already by McPhapherty (1929), and then developed in McPhapherty and Goulds (1937), can have various forms (shapes). These forms can be canonical, normal, regular, standard, primal, dual, adjoint, minimal, and yet many others, on which a Reader can read more in quite different references, especially in the works of Newmann, e.g. Newmann (1999a,b). And so, one of the basic forms taken by the problems we are facing is the one, known from both scientific and scholarly literature, and from real life (as distinct from unreal life, not to be confounded with virtual life):

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$$Q^* = \max \{Q(A_1), Q(A_2), Q(A_3)\} \quad (1)$$

where Q is a certain (the issue of the degree of certainty or uncertainty of certain elements of the theory will for the sake of simplicity be omitted here) function of net satisfaction, while A_i is an i -th strategy in the face of the problem, in this only apparently special case $i=1, 2, 3$. Let us only mention that already Stephanssohn, Trickler and Spoilster (1965) distinguish A_i for $i=1$: “I undertake”, $i=2$: “I do not undertake” and $i=3$: “I do neither undertake nor do not undertake, nor am I wooed to declare anything”, thereby becoming the true predecessors of the *neurologics*. The typology of the possible cases is (shortly) presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Possible cases of quasi-optimum strategies with respect to problem forms

Forms (shapes)	Explicit	Implicit	Unknown	Routine	Usual	Emergency
I undertake	A_1	A_1	A_1	A_1	A_1	A_0
I do not undertake	A_2	A_2	A_0	A_1	A_1	A_{-1}
I avoid	A_3	A_0	A_0	A_3	A_3	A_{-3}
I quit	A_4	A_4	A_2	A_1	A_1	A_{-3}
I enter	A_1	A_1	A_0	A_1	A_1	A_0
I enter and quit	A_1	A_2	A_2	A_1	A_1	A_3

Source: own elaboration of the authors

The data provided in Table 1 originate from a broader publication of the present authors, now under preparation, and are, naturally, quite loosely associated with the previously given formulation (1). Attention should especially be paid to the essentially expanded range of the values of index i , which takes now the values from -3 to $+4$, which constitutes a significant step forward in the analysis conducted, and has quite serious theoretical implications (negative indexing of strategies as a natural extension of the natural indexing). Altogether, this table constitutes an adequate illustration of our situation in the face of a problem (or problems) and its formulations.

Taking into account the already mentioned in this paper considerable limitation of its volume (i.e. first of all its length) we leave further considerations to the Reader, who, after having been introduced into the subject area, should be able to manage without our continued assistance.

3. Summary

Problems are what we face. Their formulations are what we perceive. It is them that constitute the object of our considerations, analyses and finally, in many cases, even decisions (although, at this point, we better take a far-reaching

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precaution). As of now, take a look at the forms (shapes). In the subsequent reports the authors shall take a look and broaden.

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