“ECONOMIC SANCTIONS”: PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION

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The base of economic science is philosophical categories which form the very first level of categories system. Categories of the economic theory are formed on the second level and on the third level categories of specific economic disciplines are used. As an example we can demonstrate a three-level fundamental category copulas of the world economy, - "world as system – globalization – economic sanctions", which could be the effective methodological instrument to reveal and solve actual problems of the modern international economy relations.

Using a process elaborated in [1], we developed a more accurate definition of economic sanctions. For those that engage the scientific community in debate over the efficacy of economic sanctions, this is an important step otherwise for continued advances in this field. We must take to the definition of economic sanctions for purposes of limiting semantic challenges and offering greater precision for research activities to be honed and directed towards clear objectives.

This aforementioned process of creating a definition involves the constriction and expanding of ideas within academic work. First, we collect definitions from the universe of scientific journals and scholarly media. We then dissect these definitions into three parts involving the categorization of the “gist” of the author’s definition, “content” and “results” as defined in [2]. Next, we look for repeated terms within these three categories while filtering for similar prose and outliers that may be of interest to us. We then tally up identified terms so as to offer weights to repetition observed across the community of recorded definitions, and define those terms that are most critical with reference to its relative features, popularity, theoretical gravity, and application within the community of research. This process is very much algebraic and akin to factoring out like-variables and affording coefficients to
parsed and simplified expressions. We are algebraically simplifying a definition into its most useful and precise elements for purposes of clarity in research circles. Our last step involves offering a definition that composes this entire process of expanding and constricting various definitions, offering weights, assigning values of importance and application, and linguistically organizing what’s left into a constructed definition.

Theoretical and practical aspects of the international sanctions were analyzed in the works of Filipenko A.S., Shnirkov O.I., Rogach O.I., Gary Clyde Hufbauer, Jeffrey J. Schott, Kimberly Ann Elliott, Barbara Oegg, Robert A. Pape, Zachary A. Selden, Elizabeth Rogers and others. Referring to our results, in no particular order or frequency, the following terms were lifted from definitions circulated in academic journals and other scientific media: force, punish, penalize, coerce, persuade, compel, change policy, behavior, compliance, acquiesce, and obedience [3]. Of these terms mentioned above, we found that the most frequently used terms involved the following combinations including “change/policy” and “change/behavior” from our criteria of recorded definitions. These terms were closely followed by the use of the term “coerce”, or “coercion”. So these aforementioned terms would need to be included for further review and consideration in academic work. “Punish”, “penalize”, “persuade”, “compel”, “compliance”, “acquiesce”, and “obedience” were also proportionally counted within collected definitions of various scientific study. “force”, lastly, was a term not so frequently used in terms of affording a definition, but nonetheless very frequently repeated within the content of collected articles, and therefore perhaps, a neglected aspect needed within the construction of a definition.

We define an economic sanction as a form of coercive foreign policy which one or more states implement versus target states and used direct and indirect economic instruments (trade, finance and other) in order to compel a target to change its economic and public behavior or else to punish it with force.

Economic instruments include such forms as tariffs, export controls, embargoes, import bans, freezing of assets and others. The effects of sanctions are negative not only for the competitiveness of the target economy but in the same way for sender states. The final consequences of the economic sanctions are strategic and consist in the realization of economic and political interests of sender states.

While noting this definition, we’ve intended to merely include the most important, frequented, applicable, and supported terms in its prose. We also had avoided extraneous information that many definitions add in terms of defining the agent and target of various types. We hope the definition is adequately phrased with the most important features and characteristics gleamed from
literature, and anticipate that with further review of the definition of economic sanctions, that research would improve in its scope, scale, and direction.

References

