ABSTRACT

This research paper is focused on discussing different types of social science paradigms and theories. The purpose of the paper is to describe and analyze key frames and models that are used by researchers in order to think over the world around them in the context of sociological paradigms. The current research is based on a review of the recent studies in the field of sociology which are directly related to the problem of using different paradigms in order to analyze processes, describe phenomena, and interpret interactions of people within any society. The analysis of the literature has indicated that, in their work, many researchers usually refer to several social science paradigms, such as the conflict paradigm developed by Karl Marx, symbolic interactionism, and structural functionalism. These paradigms allow for discussing social events and processes from a range of theoretical perspectives.

INTRODUCTION

It is possible to define social science paradigms as specific models and frames which can be used and followed by researchers when they make conclusions regarding the world around them (CDC 2010; Pettigrew 2009). From this point, social science paradigms are usually applied to research when it is necessary to support researchers’ conclusions related to their observation and sociological studies (What is hypothermia…2017). It is important to note that social science paradigms provide researchers with opportunities to discuss questions from several theoretical perspectives (Barbara and Yarnall 2012). In their practice, sociologists are inclined to refer to such paradigms as the conflict paradigm, symbolic interactionism, and structural functionalism (Turner 2002). The purpose of this paper is to discuss the conflict paradigm, symbolic interactionism, and structural functionalism in detail with the focus on their similarities and differences.