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Teoria ekonomii czy ekonomia teoretyczna

ABSTRACT. Economic Theory or Theoretical Economics

In this paper theoretical economics is understood as a collection of strongly mathematised economic theories each of which takes the form of some set of formal models being interpreted in the language of economic science. Some of them, seen as more mature from methodological point of view, like e.g. general equilibrium theory or theory of economic growth, are based on a core model which in the process of such theory development in next years or decades is still expanded, generalized or modified. The Arrow-Debreu model as well as the Solow model can serve as some examples in theories mentioned above, respectively. Then such theory takes a sequential shape, and in the simplest case of one-element set or sequence economic theory can be reduced to the concept of economic model. On the other hand, the Polish concept „teoria ekonomii”, translated literally as „theory of economics” is widely used in the Polish current economic literatur in spite of its lack in international literaturę. However, this use is often uncritical, deprived of attempts to be explained. Nevertheless, the concept under consideration is far from unique meaning since in philosophy of science as well as in general methodology various concepts of scientific theory can be distinguished to mention e.g., its sentence or semantic (non-sentence) settings. At the same time, in our approach the gravity center of exploring the structure of science is moved from the idea of scientific theory to the concept of models to construct it, and specifically, economic models which are discussed in short. What is more, the formal scheme of economic model is suggested as a pair $M = (F, R)$, where F represents mathematical formalism in use, treated as pure syntax deprived of semantic interpretation, and R – rules of correspondence to link this formalism with real world and assign to some formulae empirical content. This way comparative analysis of models with respect to various criteria is allowed, e.g., due to forms of their mathematisation. Consequently, the purpose of the paper is critical analysis of the concept „theory of economics” because of fuzziness of its meaning as well as suggestion that using it should be endowed with critical comments. In the opposite case, use of this concept should be confined or even eliminated.

KEY WORDS: economic theory, theoretical economics, economic model, theory of economic

1. Wstęp

Ekonomia teoretyczna jest w niniejszym artykule rozumiana jako zespół silnie zmatematyzowanych teorii ekonomicznych, z których każda