

Presidential election 2015 on emigration. Quantitative analysis as a method of presenting the actual state

Introduction

The base of contemporary democracy there is the right to participate in presidential elections, which are, as a rule, universal and direct, as well as equal and secret, according to point 127 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. A society, understood as a general public by their electoral rights, is still, to a lesser extent, aspiring to take direct part in the election of the head of state.¹ Such a right is granted to all citizens of the country in which the presidential election take place, as defined in point 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland at the latest on election day ends 18 years of age. It is worth noting that not everyone who crosses this magic threshold can be identified as a voter. The right to vote is vested in those who hold the full rights of the public, who have not been denied the right to vote by the ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal and the person in full mental authority.²

The prevalence of the presidential election is expressed in the drafting of voters by the municipal offices, which are supposed to allow the voter to vote. The list includes citizens who meet the above requirements, including persons in hospitals, social welfare facilities, penitentiaries or detention centers.³ At this point, it is particularly important to add that people of Polish descent who have been on immigration for a longer or shorter time may also vote.

At the time of the Polish presidential election campaign 2015, Internet forums devoted to Polonia issues and social networking sites such as Facebook had heated discussions over the matter of voting by people who did not live in their country of origin and still enjoy the right of election. Constituentists, lawyers and politicians joined in this discussion. The aim of this article is to bend over the presidential elections 2015 in the context of the migration of Poles. From a methodological point of view, it is intended to be used as a test material for quantitative analysis and justification for its wide application in political science and humanities which, as a result of incorrect assumptions, abounds in nonparametric data, resulting in objective results of research that could be representative.

Thus, the thesis set out in this article is the statement that quantitative analysis as a research tool can be used in political science to obtain objective results that are representative

¹ M. Chmaj, W. Skrzydło, *System wyborczy na urząd prezydenta RP*, [w]: „System wyborczy w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej”, Wyd. Zakamycze., Kraków 2002., s. 117.

² Konstytucja Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej.

³ M. Chmaj, W. Skrzydło, op. cit., s. 126.

and used for further exploratory research. The research questions that are supposed to be used as guides are:

- a. What is the main assumption of quantitative analysis in the theoretical aspect?,
- b. How quantitative analysis as a tool can be used in political science?,
- c. In what way the statistical databases can be used as a source of information?,
- d. How to use the quantitative analysis to analyze the results of the election on emigration?.

Paying particular attention to the fact that the phenomenon of migration is becoming more powerful and the number of Poles abroad, especially in the United Kingdom, is increasing significantly, leading to social and political disputes, expressed even in the Brexit idea, the Polish presidential elections in the UK are the basis of exploration for this tool. It is intended to examine the mechanisms of electoral behaviour and attitudes of migrants towards such actions.

Quantitative analysis – the theoretical aspect

The basis of the quantitative study is to examine the objective theories. These theories may be verified by analyzing relationships between predetermined variables. They can be measured by the use of appropriate tools, but results obtained in the form of numbers, which are often the result of complex mathematical activities, may be subjected to further procedures, this time statistical.⁴ The purpose of using such an approach is to verify the theory by deduction, the logical reasoning that leads to constructive conclusions based on the collected data. On the road of analysis, there is also some sort of protection against errors, such as the calculation of a statistical error margin.⁵ In addition, alternative explanations are tested, and most importantly, the results obtained are reproducible and can be generalized, which is reduced to the notion of representativeness.

On the basis of these premises, it can be said that qualitative analysis is one of the most objective research methods, based on specific data rather than the subjective feelings of the people subjected to the experiment. Its postpositivistic assumptions make it clear that in a broadly understood science, it belongs to a more traditional method, based not on the conviction of the researcher or the research group, but on the clearly presented data subjected to specific calculations. However, following the modern expressions of this thought, Philips and Burbules⁶, this method cannot be reduced to absolutely perfect and infallible. Human behaviour and attitudes are so individual that this method is only to be used as a basis for constructing high probability applications but cannot become the sole determinant of the phenomenon.

Determinism and reductionism are two approaches, the determinants of action when using the quantitative method as the exploratory one. The first of these assumes that research

⁴ J. W. Creswell, *Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill 2008., s. 110.

⁵ Ch. D. Nachmias, *Metody badawcze w naukach społecznych*, Wyd. Zysk i S-ka, Poznań 2001., s. 179.

⁶ D. C. Philips, N. C. Burbules, *Postpositivism and educational research*, Lanham, NY: Rowman & Littlefield 2000., s. 120.

is conducted in order to know the causes of the phenomenon that produce certain results and effects.⁷ Identifying causes and assessing them, leading to specific behaviours, effects are particularly well studied through the use of experiment. Reductionism, in turn, boils down to the knowledge of theory and truth, bringing theory to its elemental components. Then they are verified.⁸ This idea is applicable to the study of variables contained in hypotheses as well as research questions. Therefore, so much attention is devoted to the relevance of the last two elements, since in fact they depend on the success of the whole project and the confirmation of the hypothesis and, consequently, its application to the larger community. Special attention is paid to the existence of theses and truths, hereafter referred to as theories, which are subjected to verification and refinement to understand the world, behaviour and attitudes of the individuals and its mechanism.

This kind of analysis particularly emphasizes the standards of accuracy and reliability adopted by the researcher. Objectivity is understood as the essential aspect of conducting research, the competent work of the author. Hence the idea of verifying and testing, even multiple, methods and conclusions in the context of the possibility of error.⁹ For this, in the study that adopts this approach, space is devoted to attempts to formulate theorems that are relevant as well as true from the point of view. They are intended to be used for exploration and exploration of a particular situation. They can also be used in descriptive desires for causal relationships.

The quantitative approach allows us to look at the statistics as evidence, hereafter referred to as rational arguments in scientific polemics, which are often accused of lack of objectivity. The data and the way in which they are used significantly influence the process of crediting information that is still erroneously perceived as nonparametric, which cannot be used as a reliable knowledge base in research processes. The information collected, properly transformed, can be used for quantitative analysis, which is undoubtedly understood as a rational, objective and reliable method.

The practical implementation of quantitative analysis in political sciences

Political science belongs to one of the fields of humanities and social sciences.¹⁰ Unlike science, it puts it in a slightly more difficult position, because often its representatives are accused of lack of objectivity, rational approach to the research problem and attempts to solve it, making unreasonable hypotheses, or drawing too far-reaching conclusions based on subjective convictions and sometimes even misunderstanding the problem. In contrast to the natural sciences, where it is very easy to verify the hypothesis by conducting an experiment and proving the well-known truth that “ $2 + 2 = 4$ ”, the political sciences and problems they deal with

⁷ J. W. Creswell, *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage 2007, s. 97.

⁸ J. W. Creswell, op. cit., s. 109.

⁹ J. W. Creswell, *Projektowanie badań naukowych. Metody jakościowe, ilościowe i mieszane*, Wyd. Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków 2013, s. 33.

¹⁰ A. Chodubski, *Wstęp do badań politologicznych*, Wyd. Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk 1996., s. 20.

are understood as interdisciplinary ones, to clarify which knowledge is needed. Many related disciplines, without which the problem under investigation cannot really exist.¹¹ Although it raises a lot of controversy among experts in particular fields, it actually opens up many ways to the use of scientific methods and tools. Thanks to its complexity, it allows us to look at the “old” methods, often underestimated, incomplete from a completely new scientific perspective. Through their innovative use, they can become a tool used to explore new areas emerging with the development of civilization.¹²

One of the oldschool tools that are more well-known and widely used in the research process is the survey questionnaire, also called the survey.¹³ It is mainly used to collect data for further use. These may be numerical figures, but also those related to attitudes and opinions as well as the preferences of the surveyed population. Use of the survey will allow you to receive more detailed information, provided that it is appropriately structured and that questions are set so that ambiguous or disputable answers can be avoided. Properly designed not only in terms of content but also graphic, it allows to organize the collected data, which definitely influences the quality of the test and avoids the error during its execution. You can not forget the financial value of being able to carry it completely free in the age of highly developed technology, which definitely makes the tool very attractive giving it new meaning.

This solution is widely used in academic research by academic cross-cutting organizations such as the European Social Survey. Among the many issues we can observe the ways of conducting research using surveys, questionnaires, and political science. Cyclically, every 2 years, surveys are conducted on the political life of societies from different countries. In their issues, they concern the political issues of the research group, their confidence in the political world, forms of electoral participation, fidelity to the political parties, as well as socio-political orientation.¹⁴

Confirming the validity of the assertion about the empirical application of the questionnaire in political science, reference should be made, for example, to the Voting Behavior in the 2012 Election, devoted to the electoral behaviour of Americans during the election of President B. Obama four years ago.¹⁵ Then conclusions were drawn which could serve as a guide for how to effectively design and conduct a survey. It is mentioned too many questions with “socially accepted answers”, questions related to the past, which resulted in the reluctance of the respondents, expressed in the lack of response or even mistreatment of the interviewer. It

¹¹ Sociology, psychology, demography, economics, as well as law or philosophy certainly belong to such disciplines. It's just not one of them. These, the most popular, having the greatest impact on the process and the degree of comprehension of the complexity of phenomena presented under the concept of phenomena with a political nature.

¹² In the new areas that appear with the development of civilization, it is undoubtedly the phenomenon of mass external migration, with which the world is currently struggling on a large scale. In fact, until now, it was not particularly interested in representatives of the scientific world. Only this postwar and in the 80's. However, it did not constitute the basis for the development of new research opportunities apart from the most famous ones, such as analysis of archival documents (used by Prof. E. Olszewski in the process of studying the migration of Poles to Norway).

¹³ A. A. Campbell, G. Katona., *Pojęcie i typy badań sondażowych, sondaże ankietowe.*, [w]: S. Nowak, „Metody badań socjologicznych”, Warszawa 1965., s. 351 – 371. (The use of the questionnaire for several decades is justified by the year of publication).

¹⁴ European Social Survey., <http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>., access on 27.12.2016.

¹⁵ Voting Behaviour., ICPSR., <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/instructors/setup2012/voting.jsp>., access on 27.12.2016.

is important to point out that this questionnaire has become an interview, which could have a negative impact on the end result.¹⁶ Nevertheless, the idea of using the survey as a data collection tool did not disappoint. He failed the way it was carried out. He turned out to be too childish, predictable, stout.

The presidential election on emigration – the attempt of available dates analysis

In this part of this article I would like to draw considerable attention to Poles – migrants going to Great Britain for various reasons. For the most part, these are purely economic incentives designed to provide them with a better quality of life for themselves and their offspring. This goal also bears the idea of family reunion, the development of migration networks among friends and acquaintances. Their “wandering” started in 2004 when the EU, when accepting Poland to its group, opened the borders of the states already under the new labor force, which was conditioned by the rapid economic development of the host country. More migratory waves allowed the settlers to settle in the Islands, which became the basis for an attempt to assimilate with the people. At the same time, there has been a number of discussions about the shape of the country’s migration policy, its possible changes. Among the many important issues discussed by politicians and representatives of both countries is the issue of the election of Polish immigrants abroad. Taking into account the scale of this phenomenon as well as the political life of the country of origin, it is not possible to go indifferently next to such an important issue, which is not so much a place in professional literature or even in the course of a political or scientific debate.

There is little more space for data collection among Poles in Britain to show their electoral behaviour, attitudes and opinions about the preferences and the way voters cast their votes during the presidential elections in their country of origin. This was the case in 2015 when the only statistic data was those obtained from the National Electoral Commission and the Polish Embassy in Great Britain. They were mainly concerned with the number of polling stations, each assigned a number, the number of voters in that district, and the number of votes cast, with particular regard to the number of votes cast on individual candidates.¹⁷ Contrary to Polish, the UK’s statistical databases do not have as much detail as the country of origin. At the same time, it is important to note that despite their accuracy, many weaknesses remain.

Such statistics, full of mathematical and quantitative data, can be used to build theories that can be verified in a further research process and their structure and effect can lead to scientifically valid conclusions. By analyzing this data, an image of the distribution of electoral forces in individual circles is generated, which in turn is attributed to particular geographic regions, so that we can obtain meaningful data on political orientation depending on the area

¹⁶ It is so-called the negative interview result that we most often deal with at the time of the interview so that we get satisfactory results.

¹⁷ Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza., pkw.gov.pl., access on 05. 2015.

inhabited. In order to clarify the conclusions, a map can be prepared on the basis of these data, which will allow a preliminary assessment of the aforementioned aspects.

In addition, the statistics presented by PKW allow to determine which regions are inhabited by migrants most willing to participate in political life, and in which Polonia completely avoids even participation in head-of-state elections. Data analysis, conducted in this respect, will provide an answer to the question of whether and how the specificity of the area inhabited by migrants affects their electoral behavior. In this way, the independent variable, which is electoral behavior, can be verified for the dependent variable, geographic factor, resident region of Great Britain. The research question posed in this way has not yet found in the Polish literature the object and subject of the answer. The factors that could influence the way in which the migrants would like to live when they arrive are not bothered. Is it random, or is it rational, dictated by certain assumptions. In addition, data can show the percentage of migrants participating in the political life of the country of origin to those who did not participate. It is then possible to ask the question of the extent to which people leaving the country are interested in the political life of the country, and whether there are discrepancies between the different groups living in a particular area. The result of such an analysis can be used in some kind of futuristic approach, by which you can be tempted to present predictions whether these people intend to return to the country (especially when we talk about Brexit) or still remain there. Such an approach can of course be used, but only on the assumption that people who participate in elections are interested in living the country because of the possibility of return. But those who do not participate do not want to come back. However, it must be noted that the approach may be too superficial. The research problems outlined above can be answered satisfactorily

The quantitative analysis implementation in the case of election in Great Britain

Quantitative analysis at its broad application in the humanities can be used for data analysis to enable the research questions to be answered during the research process. It does not question, and even suggests, that a properly selected and transformed tool is used for a thorough analysis of Poles' electoral behaviour – migrants in the UK. It is assumed that, thanks to properly prepared and conducted analysis, the answers to the research questions put forward will draw concrete conclusions not only in the field of methodological but also political science.

It is proposed to use the survey as a research tool to gather objective data on migrants' attitudes towards the 2015 presidential elections in Poland. A well-designed questionnaire, which consists predominantly of closed questions to avoid ambiguous answers, and well-prepared scales, avoids middle values, will provide data that can then be used as a basis for verifying hypotheses. Questions should relate primarily to metrics. This will allow verification and classification of the group of people.

Based on the collected data, a chi-chi independence test can be performed using a suitable computer program¹⁸ used to verify statistical hypotheses, in a specialist literature called pi value¹⁹. Using this tool will allow you to verify hypotheses relating to dependence, strength, direction, tendencies. And in the case of electoral behaviour testing, dependency testing is highly advisable as it is through this that it is possible to determine the specificity of the behaviour of the population studied. The question of what might be considered as a determinant of the study of electoral behaviour may be the relationship between the specificity of the inhabited area and party identification. The proposed test will allow you to show between which independent and dependent variables a relationship occurs and what kind of relationship it is and what affects it.

Based on the data collected through the survey, the correlation, correlation, statistical, stochastic correlation²⁰ between the selected characteristics²¹ can also be determined. In this, it will be very helpful to create a contingency table, which must be the first step leading to the chi2 independence test²². Performing such a test will allow verification of the null hypothesis (dependency) and the alternative (no dependency), resulting in the calculation of the r-Pearson correlation coefficient. Using this tool will allow the researcher to determine the strength of the relationship between the two variables²³. Conducting the proposed research will help answer the questions posed at the beginning, by testing the tool to identify the direction and method of subsequent research and its results can be used by the institutions that ultimately deal with electoral and electoral behaviour²⁴.

Conclusions

Political science as a branch of the humanities in all its complexity is the source of constant search, discovery of new phenomena and the laws governing them. Although it is sometimes difficult to prove the validity of the assumptions of non-mathematical sciences, this does not mean that it is impossible. The identified problem, skillfully researched methods and appropriately transformed tools can serve as an instrument to explain issues even seemingly unverifiable as it is in the case of electoral behaviour. The ability to use quantitative analysis, a survey that is the basis for the collection of information, not contained in any available statistical database,

¹⁸ An R program is proposed, which is designed for humanities researchers struggling with so-called. Nonparametric data. It is an interdisciplinary program which in this context should be understood as providing the opportunity to use multiple data sources, transform statistical databases, verify them and perform the corresponding mathematical combinations with them. What makes it easy to work in it is definitely the ability to save each operation and return to it smoothly. What encourages the researcher's ability to influence the appearance of the end result, such as histograms widely understood. An additional advantage is its free, legal version to download on the Internet.

¹⁹ This particular term has been proposed to be used by W. Starzyńska *Statystyka praktyczna*, Wyd. Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2000., s. 288.

²⁰ Ibidem.

²¹ Ibidem.

²² Ibidem.

²³ A detailed study was presented at the Regional, Community and Citizens' Conference held on 27-28 October 2016 at the initiative of the Chair of Political Systems, Faculty of International and Political Studies at the University of Lodz.

²⁴ A detailed study was presented at the Regional, Community and Citizens' Conference held on 27-28 October 2016 at the initiative of the Chair of Political Systems, Faculty of International and Political Studies at the University of Lodz.

and then calculates dependency using appropriate formulas can answer questions that are not in-depth analysis in contemporary science.

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