Interpretive Public Policy to Sustainable Society Development

Songklin, P[1], Jedaman, P[2], Posing, P[3]

[1]Associate Professor, Dr., College of Politics and Governance, Mahasarakham University, Thailand
[2,3]Associate Professor, Dr., RajabathMahasarakham University, Thailand
Email: prayote@msu.ac.th, p.jedaman@gmail.com, eliti_pana@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

Approach to sustainable society development it's direction and likely as tendency of the path to meeting the given problem in the desirable outcome by relying on the fundamental theoretical, philosophical and key ideas to the goal of public policyas effectively. This's to exploratory study on interpretive public policy to sustainable social development. Synthesis results of interpretive theory can be divided in three groups as, 1) descriptive interpretation, 2) critical interpretation, 3) postmodern interpretation. Also, an interpretive theories has been applied in the field of public policy, brought about a new concept, called interpretive public policy which is divided of 3 groups including (1) contextual public policy, (2) discursive public policy, (3) narrative public policy. Practical implementation of interpretive public policy to sustainable society development, it should be implemented among to three practical approaches of cultural approach, multiple voices approach, and deliberative approach.

Keywords
Interpretive public policy, sustainable, social development

INTRODUCTION

Transition of values, attitudes, and behaviors leading tosustainable social developmentthroughouteffective of public policy management processes.Mainstream public policy studies based on the positivism method that has long dominated the social sciences. The positivism approach provided four key characteristics of public policy. (Fischer, 2003; Fischer, 2007; Fischer, 2009; Dryzek, 2010; Jennings, 2010; Bevir, 2011; Rhodes, 2019) They are to, 1) focusing on rigorous quantitative analysis, 2) neutralization of those studying or analyzing policies, 3) separation between fact and value, and 4) seeking the principles as a universal rule that can be applied to any problem and circumstance regardless of context or environment. The study of interpretive public policy to considered as the inferior stream of public policy studies, emerged to refute the concept of positivism public policy. An interpretive public policy approach does not believe in neutral and unbiased observations, but it considers that the educational and training experience that analysts have experienced and cultivated previously creates frame or lens to see and understand the world. All knowledge is social knowledge, observations and facts must be within the theoretical framework and what is often considered to be objective facts are entirely influenced by observers or analysts. This means that we cannot truly seek knowledge based on the principle of value-neutral reasoning, because knowledge is something that happens under a particular context and the knower is the one who produces knowledge within a particular context. (Laird, 1993; Yanow, 1996; Bevir and Rhodes, 2000; Yanow, 2000; Fischer, 2003; Fischer, 2007; Fischer, 2009; Bevir and Rhodes, 2010; Dryzek, 2010; Jennings, 2010; Bevir, 2011; Bevir and Rhodes, 2011; Rhodes, 2019) The research to exploratory study on interpretive public policy to sustainable social development. The presentation will be divided into four main topics including (1) interpretive theories, (2) interpretive public policies, (3) interpretive public policy to sustainable social development, and (4) conclusion.

INTERPRETIVE THEORIES

The key interpretive theories can be divided into three groups: (1) descriptive interpretation, (2) critical interpretation, and (3) postmodern interpretation. The concisely contents of each groups were followed:
• *Descriptive Interpretation:* Is based on the belief that human beings fall into a cobweb network of meanings that they weave themselves. Culture is such cobweb network. Therefore, in studying about human beings and societies, it is not a scientific experiment to find the universal law, but it is a matter of interpretation to find the meanings. There are two key methods of interpretation: ethnography and phenomenology. (Bevir and Rhodes, 2000;Fischer, 2003; Richardson and Fowers, 2010; Volo and Schatz, 2010; Rhodes, 2019) First method, ethnography is a method of seeking knowledge by discovering the insider's views on situations and practices of politics, society and daily life. An important study method of ethnologists is to stay in a community that they want to study and participate in the daily activities of the community over a period of time, by acting in such a way that it creates trust and emotional attachment to the people in the community, to find the hidden meaning behind those activities. In other words, ethnologists try to immerse themselves in the research environment and adjust themselves to coordination with the

daily events that appear in the community and the subjects that they want to study. For the second method, phenomenology is a method that has been established to correct the shortcoming of empirical methods that often study the socially world from the conceptual framework and valuation opinion that are deeply embedded in the analysts themselves, by taking the opinions of the analysts on the event to replace the social actors' understanding of social truth. As a result, the descriptions on the social situation of the empiricists usually fall out of the real social context. The solution that the phenomenologist has proposed is the analysts must try to understand the meanings of the social situation from the perspective of the social actors themselves. A typical way of study is to let the person being studied to speak or express the opinions by him/herself. The analysts are simply the person who conveyed information to the reader or information recipient without involving their own emotions and opinions.

• *Critical Interpretation:* The essence of the concepts in this group is gathering the scope of interests to cover all groups of people and developing the real consensus through the process of building a common will on political and social issues. The process is carried out through the rule of argumentation called communicative interaction in which all stakeholders have the opportunity to express their opinions and needs freely. Critical Interpretation focuses on building social truth and indeterminacy of knowledge, which represents a comprehensive criticism. Critical philosopher used a critical and deconstruction approaches to expose the existence of subjectivity and pointed out that effort to eliminate subjectivity away from the study of political and social issues is impossible. Moreover, critical philosopher also pointed out that rational-analytic technique of empiricist on political and social events tents to inadvertently respond to ideological functions more than to be a method of gathering empirical truth. (Bevir and Rhodes, 2000; Fischer, 2003; Jun, 2006; Fischer, 2009; Rhodes, 2019)

• *Postmodern Interpretation:*The essence of the concepts in this group is to find the meanings of social life by analyzing language, content, and structure of social narratives; to search the meaning of social life hidden in artifacts; and to analyze society in the context of the postmodern world with various actors under the cobweb-network social structure. Postmodern philosophers focus on attacking and refuting the fundamental beliefs of modernity; by rejecting the beliefs of the enlightened ages on the unity of reason and progress, rejecting the belief that history has moved rationally and purposively, rejecting the belief that each person is free and has the potential to meditate with his/her own consciousness, rejecting the belief that science and technology can rationally control and develop the natural and social worlds, and rejecting the belief that freedom, equality, and democracy is based on universal humanity. The core of the postmodernism is rejection the centralized concepts and rules of modern ages and presenting the decentralized and fragmented concepts and practices under the specific social contexts and diverse social actors. (Farmer, 1995; McSWITE, 1996; Cawley and Chaloupka, 1997; Gillroy, 1997; Marshall and Choudhury, 1997; Gabardi, 2001; Malpas, 2001; Spicer, 2001; Zwart, 2002; Hajar and Wagenaar, 2003; Frederickson and Smith, 2003; Joseph, 2004; Bevir and Rhodes, 2011)

INTERPRETIVE PUBLIC POLICY

Interpretive theories presented in the previous topic are applied in a wide variety of disciplines, including the field of political science, public administration, and especially public policy that is considered as a part of public administration. When the interpretive theories were applied to the study of public policies significant changes occurred, that is, the emergence of interpretive public policy as a conceptual framework to refute the positivism public policy that dominate the education and practice of public policy nowadays. Interpretive public policy can be divided into three groups: contextual public policy, discursive public policy, and narrative public policy.

• *Contextual Public Policy:* The essence of the concepts in this group is considering public policy as a type of text that public policy analysts have to read or interpret to reveal their hidden meanings, leading to understanding of social identities and values hidden in that public policy. It extends the concept and scope of public policy education to the so-called policy culture approach or contextual policy inquiry, which is not only the policy-makers, policy implementer, or those who involved in policy process, can create or interpret policy meanings, but others outside the circle can create or interpret policy meaning as well. (Yanow, 1996; Yanow, 2000; Fischer, 2003; Wagenaar, 2007; Yanow, 2007; Fischer, 2009; Bevir and Rhodes, 2010 Dryzek, 2010; Fischer, 2010; Yanow 2010)

• *Discursive Public Policy:*The essence of the concepts in this group is considering public policy as a discourse that refers to a historically specific system of meaning constituted the identity of people and objects. The concept of discourse begins with the view that action and object have social meanings. These meanings are defined by the social and political struggles at specific historical times. Therefore, the discursive public policy analysis is carried out through language and non-linguistic analysis; ideas, spoken words, historical events, and politics situations. The goal of discourse analysis is to show how these actions and objects are socially constructed and what do they mean for organization and social interaction. (Fox and Miller, 1996; Miller, 2002; Morcol, 2002; Hajer and Wagenaar, 2003; Fischer, 2003; Fischer, 2009; Bevir, 2010; Dijk, 2010)

• *Narrative Public Policy:*The essence of the concepts in this group is expanding epistemology from a narrow confining policy analysis under the observation and proof logically, to the ways in which individuals are integrated into the broader social context under the circumstances in which they arise. Thus, narrative analysis consists of the context of time and place. It reveals the underlying ideological and power structures behind it. According to the perspective of narrative policy analysts, public policy formation is a narrative about the negotiations between policymakers and different groups of stakeholders. The stakeholders describe social circumstances through storytelling within a specific time and place with the aim of disputing, justification, or expression of the individual's identity. Narrative is a method that community uses to negotiate in solving social problems that it faces. Narrative public policy analysts usually focus on the criticism of narratives dominated by society's elite and emphasis on alternative narratives. They believe that these alternative stories are equally important and correct, especially narratives from marginalized or powerless stakeholders. (Yanow, 2000, Malpas, 2001; Miller, 2002; Fischer, 2003; Hajer and Wagenaar, 2003; Eeten, 2007; Fischer, 2009; White, 2010; Dodge, Ospina, and Foldy, 2005; Ospina and Dodge, 2005A; Ospina and Dodge, 2005B; Bevir and Rhodes, 2011; Rhodes, 2019)

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Interpretive theories and the concepts of interpretive public policy as shown in the figure 1.
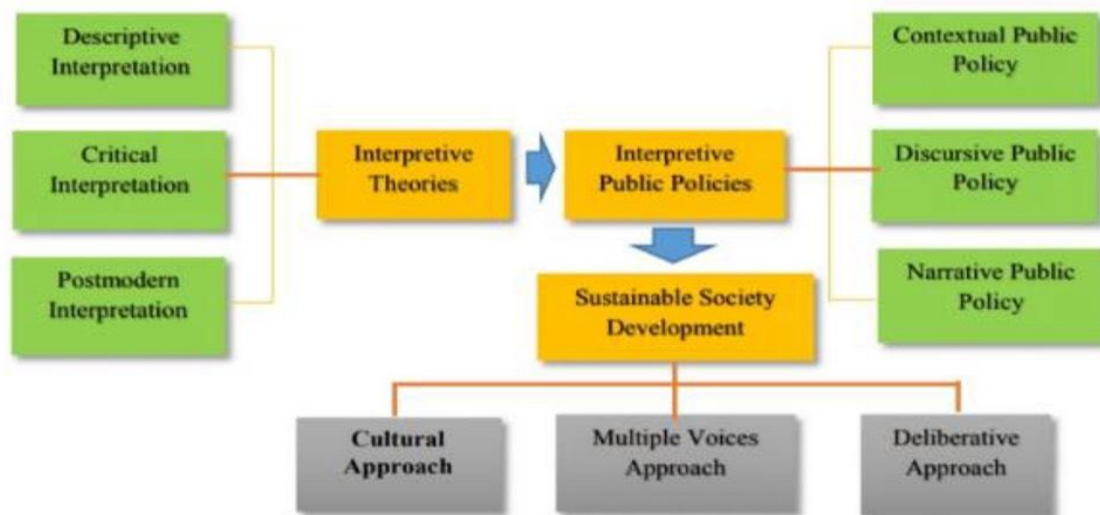

*Figure 1.*Interpretive public policy to sustainable society development.

Interpretive theories and the concepts of interpretive public policy presented above can be used to create a model or a conceptual framework to sustainable social development which is based on interpretive theories can be distilled into three practical approaches to sustainable social development: a cultural approach, multiple voices approach, and (3) deliberative approach were followed:

a) Cultural Approach.
The essence of this practical approach is giving importance to local culture, local wisdom, and worldview of various local stakeholders. Body of knowledge on public policy is constructed under specific contexts through narrative of local people, street-level civil servants, local scholars, and local policy-makers. The body of knowledge on policy issues under various contexts and perspectives will make public policy more rational and comprehensive. The cultural approach is particularly suitable for the analysis of public policy on social aspects, because it is a way of enabling citizens and local stakeholders to share narrative that reflects their diverse and complex experiences. It is different from the study and analysis of positivism public policy that try to reduce the complexity and importance of specific context that leads to policy domination of technical experts and formal-structure policy-makers. (Fischer, 2003; Ospina and Dodge, 2005A; Bevir and Rhodes, 2010; Schmidt, 2010; White, 2010; Bevir and Rhodes, 2011; Rhodes, 2019)

b) Multiple Voices Approach.

The essence of this practical approach is giving greater importance to the voices coming from a wide range of stakeholders instead of focusing solely on the voices of technical experts and formal-structure public policy-makers. The multiple voices focusing will lead to reconstruct of public policy body of knowledge under the complex and constantly changing of social and global circumstances. Because different stakeholders will have different views on the same situation, therefore the construction of body of knowledge on public policy from a variety of perspectives making public policy can be more responsive to stakeholder needs. The stakeholders here refer to the people, government officials, experts, and researchers involved in a policy issue. (Laird, 1993; Ospina and Dodge, 2005A; Bevir and Rhodes, 2010; Bevir and Rhodes, 2011; Rhodes, 2019)

c) Deliberative Approach.

The essence of this practical approach is opening the opportunities for different groups of stakeholders to present their opinions and needs through dialogue or deliberation. (Fox and miller, 1996; Fischer, 2003; Hajar and Wagenaar, 2003; Fischer, 2009; Jennigs, 2010; Innes and Boohr, 2010; Rhodes, 2019) But the dialogue or deliberation among stakeholders is not only rhetorical or ritualistic dialogue or deliberation. It must be a dialogue or deliberation in a manner known as authentic dialogue or authentic deliberative that has four main characteristics. (Fox and miller, 1996; Innes and Boohr, 2010) They are to, (1) legitimacy, which means that each speaker participating in dialogue or deliberation must be a legitimate representative of the stakeholder in that regards, (2) sincerity, which means that stakeholders participating in dialogue or deliberation are sincere in solving problems together for common interest, (3) comprehensible, which means that each of stakeholder participating in dialogue or deliberation are required to speak or present what others can understand, and (4) accuracy, which means that information presented in dialogue or deliberation must be accurate and truthful.

IMPLEMENTATION

Interpretive theory can be divided into,1) descriptive interpretation, 2) critical interpretation, and 3) postmodern interpretation. From these interpretive theories, there has been applied in the field of public policy, brought about a new concept, called interpretive public policy which is divided into 3 groups to, (1) contextual public policy, (2) discursive public policy, (3) narrative public policy. For the practical implementation of interpretive public policy to sustainable society development, it should be implemented under three practical approaches such as cultural approach, multiple voices approach, and deliberative approach. However, an approach to sustainable society development it's direction and likely as tendency of the path to meeting the given problem in the desirable outcome, by relying on the fundamental theoretical, philosophical and key ideas to the goal of public policyas effectively. Also, the transition of values, attitudes, and behaviors leading tosustainable social developmentthroughouteffective of public policy management processes to enable civil society and communities in all sectors to access and facilitate benefits, the creation of society inequality and less poverty, and society equality are to important tool in developing to be stability, wealth, and sustainable.

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