



Review Article

The role of introspection in research and historical explanations

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ABSTRACT



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In historical research, the primary responsibility of the researcher is to scrutinize, analyze, critique, and assess documents; this process enables the researcher to establish credibility and confidently elucidate historical facts. To assess the veracity and validity of documents and historical events, commence with this discourse: Is the document pertinent to the event or not? Is there a risk that it is counterfeit? The researcher must juxtapose the document with additional papers and historical evidence. This strategy enables the researcher to comprehend historical information. This research aims to elucidate the significance of in-depth observation in historical inquiry and analysis. This research demonstrates that in elucidating historical facts and utilizing them as evidence of previous occurrences, the significance of comprehensive analysis and data evaluation is paramount. This strategy facilitates a deeper comprehension of historical events and enhances the understanding of contemporary occurrences. Historical study enhances comprehension by examining material pertaining to habits, cultures, traditions, and prior practices.

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Introduction

The researcher's enthusiasm and interest, the research's applicability, the necessity of prioritizing a thorough study, a narrow and specific topic, the utilization of all relevant resources, the topic's viability, and the clarity of its temporal and spatial dimensions are some of the primary factors that also play a role in choosing and defining the subject of historical research. This is crucial because of the nature and traits of historical research. Historical studies are now highly respected in a wide range of subjects. As the battles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries have subsided, it is now clear that a historical approach to inquiry is both necessary and beneficial. Scholars have also learned more about its flaws and deficiencies. It is advantageous to comprehend historical events from two angles: first, it is vital to identify societal changes through in-depth analysis; second, it is crucial for every person and society to identify and forecast future developments using historical research. Depth analysis is a necessary step in accomplishing this since it enables us to explain the movement of phenomena by going back in time and examining their past in detail and through comparison. Three basic questions are presented in this article: 1. In historical research, what is depth analysis and what are its features? 2. How can historical writings be analyzed using depth analysis? 3. How can one develop the abilities required to perform in-depth analysis in historical research? The study's primary goals also include encouraging historians to think critically and analytically in order to analyze historical issues and events more deeply, as well as investigating depth analysis for a deeper knowledge of events,

processes, and historical changes. The library method (analytical, descriptive, comparative, critical analysis, debate, and literature review) was used in the research and production of this scientific work, making use of credible scientific books and articles.

Historical research

Historical research is one of those types of research that takes place on a certain subject that happened in the past and at a specific point in time. Since, between two specific times in the past, events took place and a tool was completed, so the researcher's effort in The historical method aims to present the facts of the past through the collection of information, review and evaluation of the validity and reliability of this information, the combination of well-reasoned reasons and their analysis, in an orderly and objective manner, and defensible research results in relation to the special hypotheses of the research (Farmeli 1991).

Today, historical study has become popular in many fields. The conflicts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries have subsided, and the benefits and necessity of the historical approach in research have shown themselves. Researchers have also gained insight into its flaws and disadvantages. And the illusory conflict between historical study and other approaches, such as analytical, psychological, sociological and philosophical approaches, is also closed (Ansari, 2023, 190). Now, in many areas, the historical approach is alongside and in connection with the bond with other approaches is taken into consideration. Philosophers, who have had the farthest position towards the historical attitude, have found the method of the first teacher, Aristotle, in metaphysics full of historical study (Ansari, 2023, p. 191).

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The importance and necessity of historical studies: The purpose of historical research is to use data related to the facts related to past events and interpret them. In this way, we can understand the factors influencing the occurrence of events that happened in the past and understand the events of the present better. Historical research helps to gain more understanding by looking deeply and analyzing data related to habits, customs, traditions and how to do things that were somehow in the past (Etamadi, 1996, p. 12).

Knowing historical phenomena is useful in two ways: first, the need to know social changes; One of the most important benefits of historical knowledge and historical phenomena is the measurement and measurement of transformations, their path and rhythm. The topic of social changes is one of the most important and comprehensive topics of human social sciences. Therefore, all scientists, from Plato to Hegel; Among others, Saint-Simon, Busuet, Machiavelli, Vico, Herder, Auguste Comte, Durkheim and Proudhon have considered the issue of social change in such a way that according to Durkheim, the issue of change in society and the direction of movement of societies is older than sociology (Peretti 1997 p. 74).

Second, knowing and predicting the future is necessary for every person and every society, and historical knowledge is an inevitable step in the way of realizing this. Because in order to predict the movement of phenomena, one must go back and know their past.

Some of the characteristics of historical phenomena are as follows:

a) They are non-living: historical events are not living; Rather, they are related to the distant or near past. Therefore, it is not possible to directly understand them. So they are always studied or evaluated in a dependent manner.

b) They are unrepeatable: the historical past is never exactly repeatable; Because the historian, whether he likes it or not, faces the past with the standards of the society of his time; So he must accept a certain deviation coefficient in his evaluation.

c) They are not only in documents and documents: historical events are never fully contained in documents and documents, and the historian is forced to use inferential methods to fill this void, which naturally adds a new element to historical reality.

d) They are not separate: no historical event has meaning separately and in abstraction, and this is the general rule of social phenomena in all times.

e) They are far from us: In many cases, these phenomena are far from us and they are different from the methods of the researcher and his time. Therefore, it is necessary to leave the values of our time and take place in the specific time of the incident in order to understand it correctly.

f) non-methodological: it is not possible to use methods such as observation, interview, etc. in them.

g) They are studied through mediation: in historical phenomena, it is not possible to study them directly and there is no other way than studying through them (Hegel 2012).

The analysis shows that although the historical phenomena belong to the past, they talk to the researcher with enthusiasm and sharp intelligence and encourage him to move.

The basic principle in the use of historical methods is the principle of oblivion, which stands against self-interview. The researcher must realize this principle in several ways: in the principle of transtemporality, the researcher must not impose the values of his time on the time of research, and in the principle of freedom of values, he must Be aware of your own subjective values and avoid imposing them on the subject of research. In principle,

the translocation of historical research usually involves some kind of location distinction. One should pay attention to the coefficients of place's influence on values, ceremonies, habits, etc. It should be remembered that in the principle of reflection and positive skepticism, the researcher should reflect in different ways in accepting the data and in this way, take help from many factors such as common sense and knowledge of the author.

In the principle of inference, the researcher ponders on various documents, identifies the incidents, and in each step, caution is his goal, so that he can finally achieve a comprehensive understanding. Also, in fact, comprehensiveness, the overall reconstruction of each incident is placed within a collection or a network and finds meaning in it. It is not possible to know the collection without knowing each of the elements; As the knowledge of each incident cannot be obtained except in the whole or collection (Molai tovani 2023).

Of course, some points should be kept in mind in any historical interpretation and analysis:

- Beware of totalism;
- Beware of giving a scientific law for the totality of history;
- knowing that there is no scientific determinism in history;
- Beware of prophecy in the whole history and... (Stanford 2004 pp. 51-55)

Steps of historical research:

Historical study has three preliminary steps and two basic steps; Below, we discuss each of them briefly:

1. Formulation of the problem: In this preliminary stage, we will discuss what problem should we solve? And what should we address?
2. Formulation of the hypothesis: the researcher should first state what hypothesis he has considered for starting the research?
3. Criticism of sources and documents: The researcher must study and examine the sources and documents before starting the research.
4. Historical description: In the position of description, we are concerned with when, where, in what situation, how, by whom or who and in what way this historical phenomenon or the studied point of view emerged (Qaramelki 2005).

In this position, the historian needs documents. The description is not necessarily a discovery, but often the historian is forced to reconstruct, and this shows the difficulty of historical description. Even though the description is more accurate, the next steps will be more complete. Anyway, the beginning of the historical study This is the stage. The researcher is often faced with three major problems in describing: describing the emergence, evolution and final state of the historical event.

Historical explanation: explanation is the statement of the cause of the occurrence of an event or its development in the light of general law. In the position of explanation, just like description, there are three major issues: explaining the appearance, development and status of the historical event. Science is its ability to predict, historical researchers often cannot make generalizations or predictions for the future based on past events. Because past events and events often happened without a plan or did not happen as planned. In most cases, historical researchers rely on the reports and observations of those who can doubt the competence of those people or the truth of their reports. It is lost and mixed up, therefore, inevitably, the percentage of filling the void of these facts comes from mental inferences and inferences from past events. Historical events do not take place in a closed environment like a laboratory. Therefore, the historical researcher

is not able to control the observed conditions. slow or manipulate the variables causing the accident.

According to the historical researcher's theories, he determines and identifies the limitations of the subject under study and research, raises hypotheses or questions for which he must provide appropriate answers. He collects and analyzes the necessary information and tries to test his hypotheses. and obtains results from them that can be generalized to some extent (Hegel 2012).

Therefore, according to the regular and scientific steps mentioned above, it can be claimed that these activities have a scientific aspect to some extent.

In order to reach the results, the historical researcher sometimes uses the principles of probability, which are similar to these principles are also used by physical science researchers. The fact that the historical researcher cannot directly control the variables of the actor in the event situation is quite clear. But it should be noted that this limitation exists more or less in most behavioral science researches, especially in non-laboratory researches such as sociology, social psychology and economics (Vozri 2001).

Sources of historical research: The first task of a historical researcher is to look deeply and investigate the correctness, validity and significance of the information collected. The information needed in historical research can be obtained from two sources:

a) Primary sources; As:

1. Documents recorded and written by real observers.
2. Remains left by an individual or group such as: fossils, skeletons, tools, clothes, coins and the like.
3. Verbal testimony of the observer during the incident, this information is usually obtained through a personal interview.

b) Second-hand sources (Secondary Sources); Second-hand sources are reporting whose reporter was not an objective observer of the incident, and it is possible that the said report was prepared and adjusted based on an interview with the actual observer of the incident; Or the reporter has read this person's report. Usually, historical researchers use second-hand sources when first-hand information is not available (Khel 1994).

Historical research sources include: written sources, oral sources, visual sources, building sources, material sources, tools, and electronic documents... (Makala 2009 pp. 80-81). The most important task of a historical researcher is to look deeply, review, criticize and evaluate the document; In this way, its validity is confirmed with him and he can rely on it with confidence. For the credibility of the researcher, he should examine the authenticity and authenticity of the document. That is, is the document related to the event or not? And is there no possibility of being fake? The historical researcher must compare the document with other historical documents and evidence; For example, he should examine the signature and seal, date, type of handwriting, type of ink used, type of paper, type of words, etc. and compare it with other information related to the person, event or technology of the period related to the document to ensure the accuracy of its belonging to the subject under study (Qaramelki 2005).

After making sure that the document is related to the subject under study, the evaluation of the content of the material is suggested as to whether the information is correct and presents the correct image of the subject or event. Are its contents compatible with rational standards? Is it not exaggerated in stating

the truth? Is the document not written under pressure? (Hervi 2008).

Positive points of historical methods

1. Systemic perspective: This means that the historical researcher, considering the distance he has with the reality under study, can see it like an astronomer in a galaxy.
2. Being against the environment: the researcher should not get used to the researched reality in such a way that he does not see its positive and negative aspects.
3. Polishing the reality: by distancing yourself from the reality, you can better see the event and the true factors behind it. With the passage of time, thoughts are raised.
4. Continuity or Continuity: A historical researcher, unlike a sociological researcher, can see not only the reality, but also its consequences and continuity. Because during the movement of reality, it is seen objectively (Vozri 2001).

Relative complications in the analysis of historical facts

1. The relative complexity of information: in this case, we can point out the difficulty of analyzing the information, which makes the research work difficult.
2. Inability to test the phenomena in the form of an experiment: because the phenomena happened once and in the past.
3. In some cases, the information is incomplete: the information is sometimes increased or decreased in the process of manipulation or due to brokering.
4. Relativity of the criteria of analysis: In historical research, there is no precise criteria for analyzing information.
5. Inability to control the conditions: unlike the laboratory method in the basic sciences, the historical researcher has no control over the process of historical phenomena (Nadri 2007 pp. 36-7).

The main stages of historical research: In choosing and defining the topic of historical research, primary factors also have an effect, such as the enthusiasm and interest of the researcher, the practicality of the research, the need to prioritize complete research, a partial and limited topic, and the use of all available resources on the topic of choice. done, the practicability of the subject and the clarity of the temporal and spatial dimensions are necessary due to the characteristics of historical research. He made small changes in the common criteria of research in other sciences, but at the same time, the general principles of history research are consistent with the general principles of research in other sciences.

Defining and limiting the problem is a very difficult and difficult task in historical research because on the one hand the physical location of the problem must be known and on the other hand it is very difficult to access reliable historical sources. They are left out because there are no reliable sources about them.

Formulating the hypothesis of historical research after stating the problem by studying the sources related to the subject of research reveals ways to solve the problem of definition. These temporary ways are actually the hypotheses that the historical researcher is interested in testing. But in this method, for the reason The complexity of the subject is not possible to express clearly. In collecting information, it may be possible to start from the study of ancient excavations and follow up the old documents left behind (Delavar, 1996).

Evaluation of information and sources: In general, the evaluation of information requires two steps: documenting documents and information sources and evaluating the content and messages given by independent sources. Analysis and interpretation of data should be done with regard to the formulated hypotheses. In other words, the interpretation of the

collected information should be according to the hypotheses that the information is intended to test. It should be noted that separate facts have no meaning and their mere classification cannot be called historical research (Delavar, 1996, p. 58).

Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the information in relation to each other and to make their inference and generalization as a single set so that all their aspects are discussed.

Difficulties of historical research: preparing and writing a history report is a problem that requires a higher level of knowledge and virtue, conducting research and preparing its report in scientific research is much more difficult compared to other researches, and this depends a lot on your creative power. The researcher's knowledge is limited due to the lack of comprehensive sources, which makes it difficult to draw conclusions. The principle that writing historical reports should have a relatively high degree of freedom has been accepted.

The form of freedom in historical research is to provide a basis for the theoretical interpretation of information. Of course, this meaning of freedom is not in the correct definition. Although the process of collecting information should be flexible, but at the same time, this action should be done regularly in order to prevent unnecessary gaps. The continuous incompleteness of the nature of historical sources causes the researcher to endure many problems from the point of view of creativity. Filling this void shows: the experience and insight of the history researcher in the field of the subject of research, the eloquence and beauty of the words and the documentaries of the interpretations, creativity and The researcher's initiative in solving problems is accuracy and clarity in writing and reporting research findings.

Of course, the lack of continuity of historical sources increases the risk of mistakes, and if the distance between the sources is so large that its interpretation is not possible, the researcher must be careful not to deviate from the main axis of his report. Historical researchers are not allowed to manipulate the facts, but their reports should not be ambiguous (Delavar 1996).

Criticism of historical research: In historical research, the researcher is always faced with these questions that question the validity and reliability of the research. Questions such as whether the existing documents are valid?

Are the existing documents compiled by the person in question?

Is the obtained information correct and reliable or not?

Is the available information related to the phenomenon under study?

Is there a way to say with complete confidence that the existing documents are authentic?

To what extent is the written content correct and reliable?

These questions and cases like them can be related to the external criticism of historical documents.

External criticism: examines the genuineness and authenticity of the document. In other words, it measures the authenticity of the researched documents. With this question, it enters the field of whether the relevant document is related to the event or not. And is there a possibility that it is fake or not?

In order to answer this question, the historical researcher must compare the documents with the relevant historical documents and evidence. For example, the signature, seal and date, the type of handwriting and the type of ink used, and the writing style, etc. compare it with other information related to the person, event or technology of the period related to the document and ensure its accuracy and relevance to the subject under study (Hafeznia 2007).

Disadvantages or limitations: Among the disadvantages or limitations of the historical research method, we can mention:

- Inability to control: controls that are used in other research methods cannot be used in this method.

- Non-presence of the researcher at the scene: Another and more important shortcoming in these investigations is the lack of presence of the researcher at the scene of the incident so that he can collect the necessary information and documents live.

- Organizing information: Another problem is organizing the collected information and documents. The researcher can analyze an event when it is possible to obtain sufficient documents, and in order to conclude the research, one has to make guesses and personal interpretations. Do not resort to - Lack of authentication of data: Some of the sources of information such as quotes are passed from chest to chest and lack credibility and credibility.

- Inability to predict: Every scientific law is capable of predicting. The predictions that are made by the laws of movement of the whole history are entered into history as events. These new events are able to sometimes reverse the predictions made. This is why such laws, if they exist, command their own death and bring about their nullity.

- The involvement and intermingling of mind and object is evident and tangible in historical research than any other field in human knowledge.

- According to Dr. Savorkhani, let's build a theoretical philosophy of history for prediction in history, this is the same as learning from history (Sarukhani 2002).

- Historical phenomena happened only once in the past and there is no possibility of repeating it in a completely similar way (Farrokhzad 2006). This is why several methods should usually be used to know the truth.

Conclusion

The research findings indicate that the researcher's endeavors in historical analysis were initially scrutinized and assessed by a comprehensive examination of previous events, and following a systematic and objective analysis, he established their validity and precision. Justifiable research outcomes in He articulated the relationship with the particular hypotheses of the research. Historical study facilitates a deeper comprehension by examining material pertaining to habits, cultures, traditions, and past practices. The analyses indicate that the primary responsibility of the researcher in historical inquiry is to scrutinize, critique, and compare historical records and phenomena; this approach enables the researcher to establish credibility and rely on it with assurance. The findings of this research indicate that the preparation and composition of a historical report necessitate a superior level of knowledge and integrity. Conducting research and compiling a report in scientific inquiry is considerably more challenging than in other types of research, largely contingent upon the researcher's creative and analytical capabilities. Ultimately, it must be said that scholars will get a genuine elucidation of history through meticulous observation and innovative methodologies, while seeking historical records grounded on the idea of reliability. The research findings indicate that the researcher's endeavors in historical analysis were initially scrutinized and assessed by a comprehensive examination of past events, and following a systematic and objective analysis, he established their accuracy and validity. Justifiable research outcomes in He articulated the relationship with the particular hypotheses of the research. Historical study facilitates a deeper comprehension by examining material pertaining to habits, cultures, traditions, and past practices. The analyses indicate that the primary responsibility of the researcher in historical inquiry is to scrutinize, critique, and compare historical records and phenomena; this approach enables

the researcher to establish credibility and rely on it with assurance. This research indicates that the preparation and composition of a historical report necessitate a superior level of knowledge and integrity. Conducting research and compiling a report in scientific inquiry is significantly more challenging than in other fields, heavily reliant on the researcher's creative and analytical capabilities. Ultimately, it must be asserted that scholars will get an authentic elucidation of history through meticulous observation and innovative methodologies, while seeking historical records grounded on the idea of reliability.

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