

Oleksandr Cheban

*Associate Professor of Public Administration and Regional Studies Chair,
ORIPA NAPA under the President of Ukraine, PhD in Public Administration, Docent*

THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO THE DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The problematic of the article is aimed at defining some theoretical aspects of corruption in public administration. The relevance is determined by the fact that Ukrainian scientists, politicians, representatives of international organizations are concerned that there is a dangerous tendency for the growth of corruption in Ukraine. Accordingly, the attitude towards Ukraine as a corrupt state is formed, which cannot ensure the proper activities of the relevant institutions, in particular the justice system. Thus, corruption and its various manifestations are risks in relation to social development and obstacles to the reforming of public administration and local self-government in Ukraine.

Based on the approach of epistemological interpretation, the article examines the phenomenon of corruption, which has an interdisciplinary nature. This allows us to understand the essence of corruption and create a theoretical and methodological basis for its definition in general and its individual cases. The article considers some approaches to the definition of corruption in the Ukrainian and international discourse. The theory of legitimacy, principal-agent theory, institutional theory, collective action theory, game theory is defined and considered. Individual cases of corruption, such as redistributive and extractive corruption, are also considered. Considering the neopatrimonial system stands out clientelism and favoritism, which is a manifestation of corruption in these systems.

The interdisciplinarity and versatility of such a complex phenomenon as corruption requires the formation of a theoretical and methodological basis for its definition. Constructivism and epistemological interpretation as one of its manifestations should be used to understand the essence of corruption. In our opinion, structuring theoretical views and types of corruption will create an integrated and systematic approach through which appropriate tools can be created to reduce corruption in the public administration system. Thus, the application of certain aspects stated above provides an opportunity for the formation of a noocratic approach in «correcting» elements of the public administration system, developing measures to prevent and combat corruption, and the like.

Key words: *public administration; corruption; theoretical approaches.*