

Manninen Jyri. **Dynamic Concept Analysis – Individual analyses of complex phenomena.**

- The concepts used to describe and study complex phenomena and their relationships are generally described using a model. A model is always a simplification of the phenomenon described and it is aimed at providing an impression of the central factors from the viewpoint of the phenomenon. Models can be used to help the user become aware of matters that cannot otherwise be directly discerned.

Professor Seppo Kontiainen's Dynamic Concept Analysis (DCA) is such an analysis and depiction method developed for the human sciences. Kontiainen presented the premises of the method already in 1973 in his doctoral thesis, but since that time he has developed the DCS method systematically. The point of departure in the method is to describe reality using concepts and their relationships. Concepts are used to define attributes indicating internal weighting, these attributes being used to trace individual variations in the phenomenon.

The article presents the primary features of dynamic concept analysis and the method is illustrated by one practical example, a system of describing the adult learning process. Thus, DCS is primarily a researcher's tool. Indeed, it has been applied in research projects in Finland and the United Kingdom.

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