

PAKAWADEE WEERAPASPONG : THE USE OF HOLISTIC TERMS AND THE PROBLEM  
OF THE SCIENTIFIC STATUS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. THESIS ADVISOR :  
ASST. PROF. UKRIT PATNOI. 81 PP.

This thesis deals with the assertion of methodological individualism that theories about society are to be reduced to theories about individuals. This is the only condition which will enhance the development in the social sciences. Nevertheless the issue of reduction is still a controversial problem. Reduction is based on the idea of the unity of sciences which stresses the criterion of physical science as the criterion of the scientific status of all sciences, including the social sciences. The idea is also disputable. On the other hand, methodological individualism claims that it is morally superior to holism. But the argument is based on the misunderstanding on the part of methodological individualism. It confuses the idea of free will with the idea of freedom in society. This dissertation proposes that the social sciences should be developed methodologically in all directions. As for any direction to be more socially accepted is in the normative and pragmatic dimensions.