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SOCRATES' DIALECTICAL METHOD

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Socrates – a great ancient Greek philosopher – believed that every man is capable of having their own point of view, but at the same time he was convinced, that this fact doesn't mean that everyone has their own truth. In order to substantiate his views, Socrates used the method developed by him, which went down in the history of philosophy as Socratic method, to be exact, dialectical method, the art of dialectical dispute [1]. Dialectics is a method by which ethical concepts are presented and developed, substantiated. For Socrates, philosophy means the consideration of a specific moral phenomenon, in the process of which we come to the definition of what is this phenomenon, that is, to determine its essence. Socrates believed that cognition is primarily self-knowledge, but before moving on to this, we must recognize that "I know that I know nothing."

Socrates' dialectical method is based on three components - irony, maeutics and induction [2]. Socratic irony was a technique used in dialogue, when at the beginning of the dialogue, Socrates pretended to agree with the opponent's statements, and then began to ask dialectical questions. The meaning of Socrates' irony is that the deep questions asked of the interlocutor made him doubt, reflect on the veracity of previously expressed thoughts, and sometimes even disappointed in his self-confidence. Thus, the thinker was able to prove that the opinion of the interlocutor is wrong.

The second component of Socrates' method is maeutics. By this notion the philosopher meant conducting a dialogue in such a way that as a result of the expression of contradictory opinions, the positions of those who argue, change and true knowledge is formed. Maeutics is a deductive technique that involves the definition of true concepts by exceptions.

The third side of the Socrates method is induction. Socrates never tried to give direct answers, instead he considered it necessary to lead his questions to the right conclusions and decisions. Since Socrates himself believed that he "knew nothing", his goal during the conversation was to help the truth "to be born in the soul of the interlocutor."

Conclusions. Socrates played an invaluable role in philosophy, introducing the dialectical method, a method that can be applied in all spheres of natural and social phenomena. No less his merit was that the thinker made a huge effort to use this method in practice on his own, thanks to which he simultaneously contributed to the spread of true knowledge and education among citizens, and the development of philosophy in general.

References:

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- [2] *Як називався метод Сократа й у чому він полягає?* (2018). Retrieved from: <https://studfile.net/preview/3021432/page:7/>