1. Explain the relationship between theory and paradigm.

Ans: The concept of scientific paradigm and particularly the sociological paradigm is closely connected to socio-logical theories. If we assume that a scientific paradigm represents a general hypothesis of scientific knowledge, a general knowledge which can be presented both as a practical one and as a specific matrix of scientific research, then we can talk about a wider and more exact system of definitions, attitudes and theories concerning the scientific explanation of objective reality. In its widest meaning, a scientific paradigm is a 'set of facts and convictions which is systematically presented, that is presented as a set of assumptions, and in which everything is combined in use. Ritter's paradigms may in this sense be understood as complementary and not exclusive streams: (a) the function of defining concepts, (b) the function of decreasing the probability of unconscious introduction of latent assumptions and concepts, (c) the function of cumulating theoretical interpretations, (d) the function of formalization of social theories, and (e) the function of qualitative analysis codification. The first function of the paradigm in sociology is to provide precision in designating the central concepts of a sociological analysis, and it can almost be compared to the significance and functions of mathematical symbols in natural sciences. Moreover, the paradigm implies logical relation derivation from previously clearly defined concepts. The cumulation of theoretical interpretations in a sociological paradigm enables new theoretical attitudes to be derived from them and supported by the previous ones, producing a coherent theoretical structure. In case the fundamental paradigm assumptions are weak, new theoretical statements cannot withstand theoretical and empirical verifications. Paradigms may facilitate the systematization of significant concepts, as well as point out the need of empirical and theoretical investigation of certain problems. Paradigms also contribute to certain codification and unification of procedures in partial and global researches. In this respect, in the framework of sociology we may find the old sociological paradigm and the new sociological paradigm, which mutually differ with regard to the theories, methods and instruments applied in learning about the social totality. Professor Miroslav Pecujlic is of the opinion that the old (classical) sociological paradigm pervaded classical sociological theories and so-called objectivistic theories (positivism, functionalism, system theories, structuralism). The statements and attitudes of a classical sociological paradigm are predominant in them, particularly the conceptions of linear progress and historical determinism, mechanical comprehension of the universe, idealized image of the society in the centre of which are order, harmony, non-conflict, and in which the conflicts, social struggles, force and domination, social changes, discontinuity, great obsession of theory by apology and governing system preservation, dominance of system over personality, limited picture of historical actors, are either excluded or less discussed. A new sociological paradigm is created on completely new and knowledge, such as the openness of history, entropic comprehension of the world (a danger of the planet destruction), the beginning of an era or great cultural transformations, mutual permeance of social processes of continuity and discontinuity, the necessity of free human actions development, the appearance of new agents of social changes, the beginning of social movements, the outset of factors of social dynamics. Alongside with that, a new sociological paradigm organically originates from the critical and creative mediation of previous systems of thought in the science of sociology. The first step in a large revitalization of sociology lies, then, in the synthesis, in supplementation of mutually exclusive streams: a modern system theory, critical theories of the society, theories of radical changes (dialectics) as well as in the apprehension of social phenomena as the phenomena with certain meanings. Comparative investigation of objective circumstances and subjective motives. Observation of the phenomenon in the system frame, but of more profound changes as well, critical examination of the existent and also of the desirable and possible future Of that provides incomparably more powerful intellectual instruments for the understanding of the new, more complex world that is being formed. Yet, it gives much more, in fact. A new sociological paradigm, critical interpretation and comprehension of existing and search for more rational social life forms. and a desirable and possible future, have become a decisive factor of great cultural transformations brought into focus by history. In this manner, sociology is actively included into the modern civilization courses. It observes and analyses contemporary society and establishes itself as a modern science. A true history of sociological theory has to exceed by evidence the chronologically arranged disposition set: it has to deal with interrelations between the theory and Other items. like the social origin and status Of its exponents, a variable social organization Of sociology, changes Of the ideas brought about by their expanding, and the relations Of ideas toward the surrounding social and cultural structure. Being that sociology is a multi-paradigmatic science (Ritzer), and we can agree With that in a sociological explanation we should also take into consideration the verified data Of various theories and paradigms developed in its scope. In this respect, the research of the social structure in modern society, for example, demands the application or both social class and stratification theories. which may cover the research subject more complexly if combined in use. Ritter's paradigms may in this sense be understood as complementary and not exclusive and mutually independent paradigms. Namely, although the paradigm Of social facts, paradigm Of social definitions and social-behavioural paradigm differ in their contents, their statements are respected in modern sociology.

2. What is neo-functionalism? Examine its merits and demerits.

Ans: Neofunctionalism is the perspective that all integration is the result of past integration. The term may also be used to literally describe a social theory that is 'post' traditional structural functionalism. Whereas theorists such as Jeffrey C. Alexander openly appropriated the term, others, such as the post-structuralist philosopher Michel Foucault, have been categorized as contemporary functionalists by their critics.