9th International Conference on Applied Engineering and Natural Sciences

April 06-07, 2026: Konya, Turkey

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https://www.icaens.org/

From Logistics to Supply Chain: The Theoretical Journey of a Concept

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Abstract – The concept of logistics appeared as a rather narrowly scoped set of activities linked with military missions. However, due to constant growth in the sphere of commercial activities, globalization, and advances in technology, the concept changed dramatically, widening its scope and changing its content. At present, it is not just about physical movement of goods and services; it is also about strategic supply chain management. In view of that, it is important to conduct a thorough analysis of the concept evolution and scope expansion, and paradigmatic transformation in order to develop a theoretical framework. For that purpose, literature search and analysis was conducted using the sources on national and international levels. The historical development trajectory of the concept under investigation in respect to its transition from the scope associated with military logistics to commercial logistics approach, then to integrated logistics management, and finally to supply chain integration was studied in terms of conceptual development. As a result, it was established that logistics does not involve solely the processes associated with transportation and inventory management. Instead, it covers all the strategic issues including information flows, process integration, creation of customer value, and competitive advantage generation. Therefore, it may be said that the concept of logistics not only underwent an expansion of scope; its paradigmatic transformation also took place. In other words, logistics can now be viewed as a new area of management that plays an integral part in the strategic management of organizations. For example, in this context it is important to note that cross-functional cooperation of disciplines and decision-making systems is crucial for the issue in question. This research paper aims at evaluation of the above-mentioned paradigmatic transformation in logistics. The study was prepared within the scope of the project titled "*Analysis of University Students' Metaphorical Perceptions of the Concept of Logistics: Its Reflections on Educational Processes*" numbered 1919B012468851, which is carried out within the scope of TUBITAK 2209-A University Students Research Projects Support Program.

Keywords – Logistics, supply chain management, conceptual development, theoretical framework, history of logistics.