The purpose of the article is to systematize views on the interpretation of the entity’s “economic security” category, to clarify and justify the characteristics of this category from the perspective of the concept of sustainable enterprise development in modern management environments. The study of scientific views made it possible to systematize the interpretation of the category “economic security of the enterprise”.

First, economic security was defined as a combination of conditions and factors. This category was later interpreted from the perspective of protection and security. However, the definition of safety as protection and security does not take into account the possibilities of prevention but focuses only on maintaining the permanence of its development parameters. The absence of a threat today does not give a confidence in ensuring a high level of economic security in the future. On the contrary, a favourable situation could lead to a lack of incentives and the need for the enterprise to improve, while a threatening situation could motivate the enterprise to take decisive action on its future.

As proponents of a resource-based approach, the economic security of an enterprise is defined as the state of efficient use of resources and existing market opportunities. But such an approach does not take into account the possible negative impact of exogenous factors.

Determining the economic security of an enterprise as a measure of harmonization of the economic interests of an enterprise will not be entirely successful because in the modern context of competition, sometimes rather rigid, the harmonization of economic interests is rather an unattainable ideal of coexistence between economic agents. The notion of security as a state of free will, which is the absence of threats, is not, in the view of the authors, correct since the absence of a threat is the exception rather than the habitual state of existence of the enterprise.

In almost all definitions, the definition of economic security as a state, which does not fully reveal the nature of the category, is dominant. Economic security is a comprehensive category, characterized by variability and dynamism. The rationale behind this notion is based on the following features: protection, security, state, opportunity, and a set of conditions.

Thus, the economic security of an enterprise is a characteristic of the viability of an enterprise in an existing environment, a set of distinctive characteristics that will ensure the development of the enterprise. A study of the economic security problem should be the comparison of characteristics of the enterprise and conditions of its operation.