

# The Research Demonstration and Transformation of the Marxist Theory of Contemporary China

Dong Shen

School of Marxist, Hohai University, Nanjing, China

sd191025@sina.com

**Keywords:** Normative Analysis, Text Interpretation, Research Demonstration.

**Abstract.** These three research demonstration were restricted by the triple positioning of Marxist theory with ideology, theoretical system, social practice, it is reflecting a mutual independent and decisively separating status in the research, which will affect the development deepening of academic research and subject building. In the future, Marxist theory should further organize its current research demonstration, complement each other's advantages to promote the connection of ought-to-be, probable and the level of real-ran, combining with the normative analysis, text interpretation and experiential narrative, highlighting the empirical research of Marxist theory, enhancing the theoretical structure of Marxist theory, forming the methodology system of Marxist theory, therefore promoting the transformation over and development of research demonstration over Marxist theory, helping Marxist theory to continuously get intervened in the Chinese and global subject classification system, moving from disciplinary awareness to disciplinary confidence.

## 1.The Normative Analysis of the Ought-to-be Level

The research of contemporary Chinese Marxist theory has been affected by the guiding thought, ideology, the system property and the political system. It was under the effectiveness of the guiding thought of Marxist theory, the ideology of socialism, the socialist system with Chinese characters and the leadership system of the Chinese communist party, the Marxist theory had stood out from the previous second disciplines that subordinated to political science, and went up to the first-level discipline. From the day the first-level-discipline was set, the Marxist theory discipline has possessed with distinct and clear function positioning: being responsible for spreading, promoting the production ideology[1]. This research demonstration stays in an abstract Spekulation level, unable to concentrate on the specific issues of empirical facts level, or unable to focus on the empirical facts comprehensively on account of selecting topic ideologically. As for the normative analysis of the ought-to-be level, Although it is possible to instantaneously concentrate on demonstration over ideology, it still appears to be hollow and thin due to lack of strong problem concern.

In the research of Marxist theory, the specification over realistic ideological level often needs historical, vertical and classical writers theory tracing, to grab a certain normative judgement from the realistic level with historical review, teasing out the classical discourse of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Zedong Mao etc., and analyzing the internal logic between different historical periods, different time backgrounds and different discussing subjects. The normative analysis regarding the ought-to-be level will certainly be helpful to proceed with historical review and conclusion for the realistic ideology from the knowledge structure level of the whole Marxist theory system, and will also be contribute to the proceed theoretical promotion over the ideology from the integrated dimension of the Marxist theory, therefore will help to guarantee the coherence and theoretical property of ideological discourse from the level of consistency between history and logic. The biggest shortcoming of such a normative analysis is that it often provides theoretical supports for "reality" by "tracing back history", which means to "attach" the ideology of realistic level to discourse expressions of classical Marxist writers to realize the "discipline awareness" of Marxist theory[2].

The normative analysis of the ought-to-be level is not a barrier and stumbling block to the

developing path of Marxist theory discipline, on the contrary it should be the source and driving force of the innovation of Marxist theory. Since comparing to other disciplines, the discourse analysis of ideology is the exclusive province of Marxist theory, an academic subject which is unable to research or intervene by other disciplines. This should be commonly accepted by the community of Marxist theory, and should also be the realistic evidence for discipline awareness and discipline confidence. However, while proceeding the ideological discourse analysis by our member of the discipline community, most of them tends to lack an attitude of discipline awareness and discipline confidence, or at the time when doing the ideological discourse analysis, they are mostly remain in the ideological logic system, unable to proceed external research, furthermore incapable of unfolding the knowledge production with “collaborative innovation” [3].

## **2.Text Interpretation of the Probable Level**

The text interpretation of probable level is firstly reflecting as introduction for the thoughts of the characters. Especially for the introduction of the thoughts over specific Marxist historical characters, it will normally not be restricted by a specific historical situation, furthermore it will combine the realistic developing status on this basis, demonstrating the enlightenment from the thoughts of historical characters. In fact, it is more of influences by the Chinese political ideology for such research demonstration. The ideology of contemporary Chinese Marxist is the outcome of historical development. And according to discourses of ideology, Marxism is the crystallization of the collective wisdom. For this reason, in order to coordinate with the requirements of ideology, the government and the academia would irregularly review a certain historical figure, and carry out conclusions over a certain topic of social heat issues. Such situations are distinctly highlighted on the anniversaries of significant historical characters and time nodes regarding important historical issues.

Based on the introduction to the thoughts of characters, review the theoretical standpoints. Such researches are often concentrated on the theories, and unfold the statements and evaluations over the theoretical system of Marxism, for example the society development theory, the democratic politics theory, the cultural criticism theory, the capital consumption theory etc., combing the texts and focusing on the theories of classical writers including Marx, Engels etc., mainly staying on the statements of theoretical standpoints of classical writers, when it comes to realistic issues, setting out from the theories itself, evaluate from the realistic issues and following a research approach of “the classical theory guides realistic practice”. That is to say, when it comes to realistic issues, it is more of seeking “evidence” by returning to the “stock theories”, and further more finding “interpretation” for the discourses of realistic practice level, however unable to contribute on “increment” over “theories” and less likely to promote the knowledge production of Marxist theory. The reason for situation like this is mainly due to inefficiency of response to the realistic issues and more over hard to set out from practical issues to promote the theoretical growth of Marxist theory.

The Marxist theory is an “imported good”, in the practical process of Chinese revolution, construction and reforming, which experienced a “localization” process, and produced a series of “Sinicization” theoretical outcomes. The contemporary Chinese Marxism is situated in a global comparative vision all the time, growing in the comparison between history and reality, China and the west, new and the old. This existing situation will need the Chinese Marxist theory research to continuously pay attention to the outside, continuously study the classical text of Marxism, foreign Marxist theory, the western dynamic condition of Marxist theory, the new Marxist theory issues, and promote the development of Chinese Marxism through the translation of classical documents. The Chinese Marxist theory research has not only translated and introduced the classical text of Marx and Engels, it also laid emphasis on the introduction and evaluation of foreign Marxism, western Marxism and the new Marxism, and started round of craze in the academia.

The text interpretation of probable level is not the barrier to the discipline development of Marxist theory, in the initial stage of discipline development, it is supposed to be the inherent concept of Marxist theory research. However, we must notice that the Marxist theory is not only focusing on the human thoughts, spirits and values like other humanities like literature, history and

philosophy etc., and also paying attention to magnificent academic topics including society structures , society changes, society orders and the social development, or it is to say that the attention from Marxist theory to the thoughts, spirits and value is inlaid with the macro economical society developing background.

### **3.The Narrative Experience of the Real-ran Level**

After the establishment of the first-level discipline for Marxist theory, on one side, more and more discipline members are starting to study on the social realistic issues, and relying on these issues, gaining subsidize from all levels of issue; on the other side, the Marxist theory as an ideology, always having connection with the real life, and the social heat and difficult issues are forcing the Marxist theory community to give a response, to build consciousness and confidence for the Marxist theory in the exchanges and responses. These two conditions are making the whole Marxist theory discipline to more and more concentrate on the social realistic issues frequently. However, from the practical situation, when the Marxist theory is used to analyze social realistic issues, it is mostly reflected as cross-discipline of issue selection, which means hard to concentrate on the realistic issues of this discipline. Some social issues, regarding migrant workers, the civilization, the integrity of government affairs etc., although the Marxist theory was involved in the process, these issues were commonly concentrated by discipline community regarding economics, sociology, political science and the science of law, due to lack of measure and method by the Marxist theory, it is unable to unfold analysis and statement without independent and complete theoretical discourse, therefore didn't achieve excellent outcome.

The cross-discipline issue selection and the non-professional discourse analysis has directly causes the interruption of Marxist theoretical structure. In the narrative experiences of the real-ran level, the Marxist theory discipline community lacks efficient professional concept, the analysis perspective and the theoretical basis, it is more about referring to concepts, perspectives and theories of other disciplines, to unfold analysis over relative realistic issues, and therefore making certain contribution to the knowledge accumulations and issue statements for other disciplines to different extents. The establishment of the first-level discipline for the Marxist theory, is not only requirement for political ideology, but also outcome for the theoretical structure growth of Marxist theory. in contemporary China, the Marxist theory not only concern with the instructional thoughts of ideological level, meanwhile seeing it from a far-reaching view, it is related to the direction and the prospect of the development of the whole country, which involved with the basic disciplines of "baseline" and "principle". The discipline members at current stage would mostly lost the theoretical traditions and forget the mission and responsibility when specific experiential issues are mentioned, and then cause the interruption of Marxist theoretical context.

The Marxist theory will need to carry out experiential narrative on the real-run level, however, it should not only lay in the experiential narrative on the real-run level. Through the experiential narrative on the real-run level, the discipline members should return to the "ought-to-be" "specification" "theory", through the union of ought-to-be and real-run, the specification and the reality, the theory and the practice, enhance the discipline competitiveness of the Marxist theory, the academic explanatory power and the influence of the scholar. In this process, other social science including economics, sociology, political science and the science of law will not be the barrier to the discipline development of Marxist theory, on the contrary its relative professional concept, analysis perspective, methods and measures and the theoretical context will be useful to itself, to proceed with Marxist absorption and transformation, making them to be the nutrients and motivation for the first-level disciplinary building for the Marxist theory, and further establish a "Marxist theory discipline group"[4], and realize the "reliance development"[5].

### **4. Moving Forwards to Empirical Research, theoretical Context and Method System of Marxist Theory**

Firstly, highlight the empirical research of Marxist theory. Empirical research is the "main switch"

and the “main key” to crack the mutual isolation of the three research demonstrations. Through empirical research, combining with normative analysis and the narrative experience, in the interaction of abstract text and specific practice, realizing the combination of out-to-be, probable and real-run, therefore achieve the “consciousness union of scientific spirit and the humanistic spirit” [6]. Through the prove or disprove of narrative experience, the Marxist theory no longer stay in the abstract logic deduction, the text interpretation is no longer appeared to be boring, the narrative experience is not immature and dull anymore. The empirical research set out from the consciousness of issue of the real-run level, by caring of text interpretation on the probable level, stepping up to the theoretical level, responding to the specification of the ought-to-be level, break through the barrier and boundary of the three research demonstrations of ought-to-be, probable and real-run. During the process, the realistic consciousness of the issue has been highlighted, the professional core concepts has been reflected, the normative analysis framework has been applied, the disciplinary theory context has been enhanced and the Marxist theory empirical research has been implemented, the above mentioned has promoted the organic unity of the triple positioning covering with ideology, theoretical system and the social practice.

Secondly, enhance the theoretical context of the Marxist theory. The knowledge production of the theoretical system has determined the promotion and maintenance of the national ideology. Seeing from the practical situation, it mostly highlight the normative instructional function of the Marxist theory with premises, and unable to make contribution to the production of theory; the text analysis of the probable level are mostly dedicated to the thoughts of classical writers including Marx and Engels etc., and it will certainly unable to promote the theory construction with practical basis; the narrative experience of the real-run level are more of facts demonstration pointing to the practical level, which is unable to penetrate through the barrier of experiential facts to the theoretical level. That is to say that the existing three different research demonstrations has overlooked the theoretical context of the Marxist theory to different extents, which caused the interruption of theoretical context. Either absent of theoretical consciousness, or staying on the classical theory and unable to taken care of reality, or grabbing the experiential facts and unable to return to the theory. These situations have all caused the anemic knowledge production of the Marxist theory, and affected the effective supply of theoretical discourse on the ideological level, and therefore made the Marxist theory to an awkward situation in the whole disciplinary division system.

Thirdly, form the Marxist theory method system. The method system is located with a significant position in the scientific research of the modern society, the methods are either the intermediary that connects reality with theory, and it is also the significant basis to guarantee the repeatability and the verifiability of the social scientific research. It is not only reflected in the research of classical writer like Marx and Engels, but also reflected in the works of the Chinese Marxist including Zedong Mao and Xiaoping Deng etc. It could be discovered from text reading that Marx and Engels had applied plenty of modern research methods to unfold the research, these methods were inherited by the following Marxists from countries, and were also referred to by scholars from other disciplines to a certain extent, and therefore become a commonly used tool and measure in the social scientific theoretical researches covering with economics, sociology, political science and the science of law etc. Based on the current research achievements, the contemporary Chinese Marxist theoretical research seems to lost this excellent tradition. We could certainly refuse the modern research methods of economics, sociology, political science and the science of law using the professional nature as an excuse. However, we should and are supposed to return to the classical Marxism works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Zedong Mao etc., to inherit and carry forward the excellent methodology tradition.

## References:

- [1] Rongzheng Mei, suggestions regarding the discipline building of Marxist theory, *Thoughts and theories educational journal*, vol.3, pp76-80, 2015.

- [2] Dong Shen, From discipline awareness to discipline confidence: the repositioning of first-level discipline of Marxist theory, *Social science of Hubei*, vol.10, pp5-10, 2015.
- [3] Hailiang Gu, collaborative innovation with concentration on the Marxist theory discipline, *Journal of Wuhan University*, vol.4, pp5-6, 2013.
- [4] Jinju Feng, Building a higher standard Marxist theory discipline on a new historical starting point- written on the tenth anniversary of establishment of Marxist theory discipline, *Marxism research*, vol.8, pp6-10, 2015.
- [5] Zhuanghai Shen, Reliance development of ideological and political education, *Higher Education in China*, vol.18, pp32-34, 2006.
- [6] Mingli Huang and Zhaofen Chen, The Marxist ideology: consciousness union of scientific spirit and humanistic spirit, *Journal of South China Normal University*, vol.6, pp19-24, 2014.