

Marxist Methodology and its Characteristics

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Abstract: *To achieve complete and successful research, it is necessary to examine the facts through the methodology. Only in this way can academic research maintain a rational and objective position. Objectively speaking, Marxism is an ideal arrangement for the future communist society. This ideal is based on the demonstration of the contradictions of the capitalist system at that time, and this argument is based on the large-scale socio-economic and historical process of human society in the past (for the specific situation of the advanced capitalist society in Western Europe at that time) It has formed a set of self-contained research methodology. This article mainly discusses and interprets the methodology of Marx, and analyzes its five main characteristics, and then distinguishes its difference from other methodologies and its advanced nature.*

Keywords: Marxist methodology; characteristics; criticism; dialectics

To a certain extent, the vitality of Marxism as a theoretical concept is provided by the dialectical cognitive method of Marxism. It includes a characteristic method close to reality and some research methods, and a creative methodology of Marxism in the form of a set of analysis methodology. As F. Engels pointed out, "to develop a method as the basis of Marx's critique of political economy, we believe that this result is not inferior in significance to the main materialist views" [Marx & Engels, Vol. 13, pp.1]

The Marxist methodology is the real soul and motive force of Marxism. It's no wonder Engels wrote that "Marx whole world is not a doctrine, it is a method. It does not provide ready-made dogma but provides a starting point for further research and methods for this research." [Marx & Engels, Vol. 39, pp. 132]

I will try to depict the main characteristics of Marxist methodology, and we need to pay attention to three points. The first is that some of its characteristics (e.g., materialism, dialectics) are in some way consistent with the cognitive methods of other previous thinkers and philosophers, although their interpretation of these methods is different from that of Marxism. The second point is that the Marxist methodology is different from the research methods of other philosophers and researchers. For example, Marxist methodology is revolutionary. It is the most thorough, independent and original answer to the most important and acute questions of our time, to the past, present and future questions, and to everyone's own questions. The third and most important point is that in terms of the integrity and unity of Marx, this methodology is different from other methodologies, which highlights the history and reality of research, so it represents a breakthrough in scientific methodology, which is a new term in the method of studying objective process. The methodology provides and gives the most accurate and profound scientific theoretical results, and then continuously develops and enriches it based on this methodology, rising from one qualitative level to another higher qualitative level.

Let take a look at the five main characteristics of Marxist methodology.

The first feature is materialist dialectics, not idealistic dialectics. As K. Marx wrote, "my dialectics is not only different from Hegelism, but also directly opposite to it" [Marx & Engels, Vol. 23, pp. 132] Because it relies on materialism, not primitive and vulgar, but complex and develops on the basis of discoveries. Moreover, the development of materialism is not metaphysical, but precisely dialectical, that is, in the process of universal connection and interdependence, in constant change and change, in the transition from quantitative change to qualitative change, in the expression and settlement of contradictions, these contradictions regard the unity of opposites and struggle as the source of all development.

The second feature is the historical and specific historical methods, the unified study of the past, present and future, continuity and innovation, continuity and discontinuity. As K. Marx wrote, "our approach shows the key points that should include historical consideration of the subject..." [Marx & Engels, Vol. 46, pp.449] Moreover, K. Marx thinks that this historicity has already happened and will become the next stage of history. Lenin pointed out: "the whole spirit of Marxism, the whole system requires that each position should only be (a) considered in history; (b) only related to others; (g) only related to specific historical experience" [Lenin, Vol.2, pp.329]

The third feature is the dialectical unity of the breadth and depth of analysis, the comprehensiveness and integrity of the objective research, and the combination of the most basic, defined, decisive, deep-seated phenomena and factors, and the characteristics of the phenomena and processes of the study must be selected from the whole set of factors (main laws and trends, main contradictions, roots, and most basic characteristics). This ensures the scientific validity and objectivity of the theoretical conclusions. But in the process of interpretation, obstacles are set up on the road of arbitrariness, voluntariness, and subjectivity. Lenin wrote in his article: "Marxism considers all contradictory trends, provides a comprehensive and comprehensive research road for the formation, development, and decline of social economy, simplifies them into the conditions for the precise definition of life and production of various social strata, and

eliminates the selection or interpretation of individual dominant thought subjectivity and arbitrariness, without exception, reveal the roots of all ideas and all different trends in the state of material productivity "[Lenin, Vol.2, pp.26]

This is a very important methodology for understanding Marxism. Many western researchers also use a variety of facts and factors to study and explain the process of real life. Therefore, in describing the social class structure of capitalist society, the author of the theory of "social stratification" widely uses the concept of "many factors", many of which are simply equal and balanced without highlighting the priority and decisive factors. At the same time, they not only use social, political, cultural, behavioral, psychological but also use important economic factors, mainly income and employment, which are also done by Marxist researchers. But they stopped there. And Marxists are people who go deeper. The essence of social stratification is that they will not reveal the content of people's attitudes towards property and means of production. This is the decisive dividing line between Marxist and non-Marxist bourgeois cognitive methods. The main difference and opposition between them lie in revealing or concealing the essence of objects, revealing or hiding the fundamental basis and causes of objects.

The fourth characteristic is the critical and revolutionary spirit of Marxist methodology. K. Marx wrote that the dialectics he used to explain the existing methods "includes the understanding of negativity, inevitable death, and at the same time he considers every form of realization in the movement, and therefore, from her short-term side, she does not yield to anything. In essence, it is critical and revolutionary "[Marx & Engels, Vol. 23, pp.22]

Marxist methodology not only aims to comprehensively and deeply study real life by analyzing accurate data and realistic facts, but also explains its role in development, motivation, and contradiction scientifically and critically, but also lies in the positive, constructive and creative changes and continuous improvement of changes. Reality itself develops in an evolutionary or revolutionary way. What K. Marx said in his "Theses on Feuerbach Written" is well known: "philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways, the point is to change the world" [Marx & Engels, Vol. 3, pp.4] F. Engels stressed that this is why science was K. Marx "revolutionary force...Because Marx was first and foremost a revolutionary...His element is struggling...He fought with such enthusiasm, persistence, and success that few people do. [Marx & Engels, Vol. 19, pp.351]

Consistent criticism and resolute revolutionary spirit are the unique features of Marxist methodology. It makes Marxist methodology stand out from many other methodologies and makes it and Marxism generally on the top of many other scientific thought trends. This is a feature that causes hatred and anger in exploitation, against the people, against the owners of the human system. On the contrary, it has aroused

the full support of the working people, unity, liberation fighters, justice, and the establishment of truly popular society in many countries of the world. Criticism and revolutionism are the most powerful spiritual weapons for the constructive restructuring of society and marching towards the new world in the future.

The fifth feature is the integrity and unity of the integrated and dialectical coverage of the world, nature, society, human and cognitive phenomena which are truly inseparable, unified, and at the same time internal contradictions. This final comprehensive feature of Marx's method has all the meanings of previous methods, and precisely based on them, provides a unique opportunity to explore the transition between material and ideal, material and consciousness, existence and thinking existence and thinking, general, specific, and individual, and their interaction. At the same time, without falling into oneness (spontaneity, contemplation, vulgar materialism, or abstract idealism), and combined with some aspects (i.e., decisive aspects and other aspects), it has played a positive role in the universal development of the whole and unity.

Marx pointed out that the lack of a holistic and comprehensive method to study reality will lead to the fact that "contrary to materialism, the positive side is developed by idealism, but only abstractly..."[Marx & Engels, Vol.3, pp 4] Karl Marx called the comprehensive method of "new materialism" should avoid this kind of omission and unilateralism, which will lead to the loss of an important aspect of the process of a universal world from the overall analysis.

As a developing science, Marxism first interests us because of the application of the Marxist methodology in social research. This methodology is contrary to Hegel and other scholars. The essential difference between Marxist methodology and any other methodology lies in the fact that we can discover the logic of the development of reality itself. In modern times, Marxism's attitude towards the current proletariat, the current development level of capitalism, and the attitude of various forms of state power are hot topics. It is Marx's method that gives us time to study these problems within the framework of Marxist science.

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