

# The Value and Application of Marxist Theory and Social Science Methodology in Accounting

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**Abstract:** This paper explores the application value and practical significance of Marxist theory and social science methodology in accounting by analyzing the basic principles of Marxist theory and social science methodology, combined with the characteristics of accounting. It aims to provide new ideas and methods for accounting education and practice.

**Keywords:** Marxist Theory; Social Science Methodology; Accounting; Application Value.

## 1. Introduction

Marxist theory, established by Marx and Engels and further advanced by their successors, constitutes a scientific theoretical framework that encapsulates the universal laws governing nature, society, and human cognition. It is a body of thought asserting the inevitable supplanting of capitalism by socialism and the eventual attainment of communism.

Social science methodology represents a theoretical system dedicated to the study of research techniques in the social sciences. It encompasses aspects such as research design, strategies, and methods for analyzing and interpreting research outcomes. This methodology classifies research approaches into quantitative and qualitative methods, each fulfilling a distinct and indispensable function in social science research.

Accounting serves as a vital pillar for socio-economic development. Both businesses and government entities depend on accounting for accurate financial management and informed decision-making analysis. Accounting activities extend beyond the mere recording, analyzing, and reporting of financial information within enterprises; they also have a bearing on strategic planning, cost management, and investment choices. Through the effective analysis and handling of financial data, accounting professionals enable enterprises to understand economic trends, forecast market developments, and offer robust support for their sustainable growth.

The examination of the value and application of Marxist theory and social science methodology in the field of accounting is essential from multiple perspectives. This research not only offers scientific theoretical guidance for accounting practices but also contributes to elevating the social standing and influence of accounting, thereby facilitating the advancement and evolution of the accounting discipline.

## 2. The Value of Marxist Theory in Accounting

(1) Uncovering the Link between Capitalist Economic Laws and Accounting Practices

The laws of the capitalist economy act as significant guiding principles for accounting activities. They lay bare the inherent logic and operational mechanisms of the capitalist mode of production, offering scientific theoretical direction

for accounting practices. In a capitalist economic system, accounting operations are required to adhere to the law of surplus value. This ensures that capitalists are able to maximize surplus value through the accounting and oversight of the production process. Simultaneously, accounting practices must satisfy the requirements of the capitalist market economy. By supplying accurate and timely financial information, they assist enterprises in making scientific decisions, optimizing resource allocation, and enhancing economic efficiency.

Accounting practice represents a crucial means of reflecting and exposing capitalist economic laws. As an information system, accounting objectively mirrors the financial position and operating performance of enterprises. It does so by recording, measuring, reporting, and analyzing economic activities. This financial information not only forms the basis for internal management but also functions as a decision-making reference for stakeholders. Through a thorough analysis of this financial data, individuals can uncover the specific manifestations and mechanisms of capitalist economic laws. Consequently, they can gain a better understanding and grasp of the essence of the capitalist economy.

(2) Analyzing the Function and Evolution of Accounting in the Context of the Socialist Market Economy

In the environment of the socialist market economy, the significance of accounting has grown more and more pronounced. Firstly, accounting provides decision-making support. It furnishes enterprises with comprehensive and precise financial information, enabling management to make scientific and rational business decisions. Through the analysis of this data, enterprises can anticipate future market trends, adjust their strategic orientations, and maintain a competitive edge in the market. Secondly, accounting plays a role in supervising and regulating corporate activities. Through strict accounting and auditing processes, it ensures that financial operations are in accordance with laws and regulations, preventing corruption and improper practices, and safeguarding fairness and order within the socialist market economy. Finally, accounting contributes to optimizing resource allocation. By examining financial data, enterprises can gain insights into their asset composition, liability situation, and profitability, thus optimizing the allocation of resources and enhancing the efficiency of capital utilization.

Moreover, within the framework of the socialist market

economy, the accounting profession is undergoing continuous transformation. The implementation of new accounting standards and systems has made accounting practices more standardized and transparent, enhancing the quality of accounting information. Simultaneously, with the advancement of information technology, the informatization of accounting has become an inevitable trend, boosting the efficiency and accuracy of accounting tasks. Additionally, the expansion and intensification of accounting functions have imposed increasingly stringent requirements on the professional quality of accounting personnel. They are required not only to possess a solid foundation in accounting knowledge but also to have an understanding of modern management and information technology to elevate their overall professional capabilities.

### **3. The Application of Social Science Methodology in Accounting**

(1) The Application of Qualitative Research Methods in Accounting Practices: The Case Study Approach

The case study method, through in-depth investigation and meticulous analysis of specific instances, is capable of uncovering underlying root causes and inherent laws, thereby offering empirical evidence for addressing analogous problems. This approach is especially valuable in accounting practices, given that accounting issues frequently entail intricate economic environments and the interaction of multiple factors.

In the realm of accounting operations, the case study method can be employed across diverse areas. For example, in the field of auditing, by examining cases of audit failures, it is possible to summarize the risk areas within the audit process and identify corresponding improvement measures. In financial management, studying cases of corporate financial crises can expose the flaws in financial management and the strategies for risk prevention. Regarding accounting informatization, analyzing successful cases of enterprise accounting informatization enables the extraction of experiences and lessons from information construction, serving as a reference for other enterprises.

(2) The Application of Quantitative Research Methods in Accounting Data Analysis: The Statistical Analysis Method

The statistical analysis method empowers accountants to extract valuable insights from vast amounts of financial data. Through the collection, organization, and examination of such data, accountants can obtain a comprehensive understanding of an enterprise's financial position and operational performance, offering robust data-driven support for corporate decision-making. By applying a variety of statistical techniques and models, accountants can conduct an in-depth analysis of financial data, identify internal relationships and potential risks, and provide a scientific foundation for enterprise risk management and decision-making processes.

Moreover, the statistical analysis method can be utilized to compare financial data over different time periods or between various enterprises. Through comparative analysis, accountants are able to evaluate an enterprise's development trends, competitive advantages, and disparities in operational performance, providing crucial references for strategic planning and decision-making.

Lastly, the statistical analysis method also assists accountants in financial forecasting and decision analysis. By

conducting statistical analyses of historical data, accountants can predict an enterprise's future financial situation and operational outcomes, supplying data support for the formulation of appropriate business strategies.

### **4. The Comprehensive Application of Marxist Theory and Social Science Methodology in Accounting**

In the grand map of contemporary academic research, accounting research, as an important component of the discipline of economics and management, the construction and development of its methodology are of vital significance for the theoretical deepening and practical application of the discipline. Marxist theory, with its profound philosophical speculation and scientific social insight, provides a solid theoretical foundation for social science research. The methodology of social sciences, with its systematicness and normativity, provides specific and operational research paths for academic research. Introducing the practical perspective of Marxism and the methodology of social sciences into the field of accounting research can not only inject new vitality into accounting research, but also promote new breakthroughs in the accounting discipline in the dual dimensions of theory and practice.

In the field of accounting research, practice occupies an irreplaceable and crucial position. Accounting, as a discipline, is not merely the construction of an abstract theoretical system, but also a method and technique with extensive practical application value. From the internal financial management of enterprises to the information disclosure in the capital market, from the government's fiscal supervision to the economic decision-making of the public, accounting practice runs through all links of economic activities.

Accounting research must be closely integrated with practical activities, which is determined by the essential attributes of the accounting discipline. On the one hand, accounting research should keenly identify and raise the problems that arise in practice. With the acceleration of economic globalization and the continuous innovation of business operation models, the field of accounting is confronted with new and complex issues such as accounting for financial instruments, accounting for business combinations, and environmental accounting. These problems originate from practice and have a significant impact on it, requiring accounting researchers to conduct in-depth research and analysis by delving into practice. On the other hand, accounting research needs to verify the validity and practicability of theories through practical means. The research results of accounting theory should ultimately be applied to practice to guide the practical operation of accounting. Therefore, in the process of theoretical research, it is necessary to focus on testing through practical methods such as empirical research and case analysis whether the theory can accurately explain and predict accounting phenomena and whether it can provide effective solutions to practical problems. Based on the above analysis, accounting research should attach great importance to practice and take practice as the starting point and ultimate goal of the research. In the research process, emphasis should be placed on applying theoretical knowledge to solve practical problems and achieve a positive interaction between theory and practice.

The methodology of social sciences emphasizes attributes such as systematicness, rigor, empiricism and value,

providing a set of scientific research methods and tools for accounting research. Systematicness requires accounting research to grasp the research object as a whole, analyze accounting phenomena in the broader context of the social and economic system, and consider the interrelationships and interactions among various factors. Rigor is a fundamental requirement in accounting research, which is reflected in all aspects of the research process, including the proposal of research questions, the setting of research hypotheses, the selection of research methods, the collection and analysis of data, and the drawing of research conclusions, etc. Accounting research requires the application of strict logical reasoning and empirical analysis techniques to ensure the scientific nature of the research process and the reliability of the research results. The empirical aspect emphasizes that accounting research should be based on practical experience. First-hand data should be obtained through means such as observation, investigation, and experimentation to objectively describe and analyze accounting phenomena.

Value attributes are an important component of the methodology of social sciences, and accounting research is no exception. Accounting research achievements should not only have academic value, but also take into account their contribution and significance to social practice and the development of the discipline. Accounting research should focus on social hot issues, provide theoretical support for solving practical accounting problems, promote the improvement and innovation of accounting practice, and at the same time facilitate the development and perfection of the accounting discipline.

The value consideration of accounting research has the characteristics of multiple dimensions. From the perspective of social practice, the research results of accounting should be able to provide useful references for the operation and management of enterprises, the financial supervision of the government, the decision-making of investors, etc. From the perspective of disciplinary development, accounting research should be committed to promoting the innovation and improvement of the accounting theoretical system. With the changes in the economic environment and the development of accounting practice, traditional accounting theories are facing many challenges and require continuous theoretical innovation.

Combining Marxist theory with the methodology of social sciences can provide a more comprehensive and in-depth research perspective and methods for accounting research, thereby revealing the essence and laws of accounting more deeply. The practical perspective of Marxism emphasizes understanding accounting phenomena from the perspective of social practice, while the methodology of social sciences provides scientific research methods and tools. The two complement each other.

From the essence of accounting, the practical perspective of Marxism helps us recognize that accounting is an important component of human social and economic practice activities and is constantly evolving and improving along with the development of social practice. Accounting is not merely a technical method but also a social institutional arrangement, reflecting the social economic relations and the pattern of interest distribution. By applying systematic and empirical methods in the methodology of social sciences, we can conduct in-depth research on the manifestations and mechanisms of accounting under different social and economic systems, and reveal the essential characteristics of

accounting.

In terms of accounting laws, the combination of the practical perspective of Marxism and the methodology of social sciences can help us discover the intrinsic connection between the development of accounting and the development of social economy. For instance, with the development of the market economy, the objective of accounting has gradually expanded from the initial management service to providing decision-making useful information for external stakeholders such as investors and creditors. This change reflects the transformation of the demand for accounting information in social and economic development. Through methods such as empirical research and case analysis, we can conduct in-depth studies on the laws of accounting development and predict the future development trends of accounting.

The integration of Marxist theory and the methodology of social sciences can not only promote the development and improvement of the accounting discipline, but also provide strong theoretical support and guidance for solving practical accounting problems. In terms of the development of the accounting discipline, this integration helps to break the limitations of traditional accounting research and expand new fields and methods of accounting research. Introducing the class analysis method of Marxism into accounting research can deeply explore the benefit distribution effect of accounting information, reveal the power relations and social inequality behind accounting, and inject new vitality into the development of accounting theory.

In terms of solving practical accounting problems, the combination of Marxist theory and social science methodology can provide more scientific and effective solutions. When dealing with the problem of distorted accounting information, the practical perspective of Marxism can help us realize that the distortion of accounting information is not only a technical issue, but also closely related to factors such as the social economic system and the corporate governance structure. By applying the empirical analysis and normative research methods in the methodology of social sciences, we can propose comprehensive governance measures, including improving accounting standards and systems, strengthening internal control of enterprises, and enhancing the professional ethics of accounting personnel, etc., to fundamentally solve the problem of accounting information distortion.

## 5. Conclusion

Marxist theory furnishes a robust theoretical groundwork for accounting research, whereas social science methodology supplies scientific research approaches and instruments. The implementation of Marxist theory and social science methodology in the field of accounting has yielded abundant practical outcomes. For instance, within the domains of financial analysis, cost control, and budget management, the accounting profession has effectively resolved numerous practical issues. By leveraging Marxist theory and social science methodology, it has enhanced the economic efficiency and management standards of enterprises. Concurrently, these practical achievements have further validated the efficacy and practicality of Marxist theory and social science methodology in accounting.

In conclusion, Marxist theory and social science methodology have manifested significant value and a wealth of application results in accounting. They not only offer a sturdy theoretical basis and scientific research methods for

accounting research but also drive the continuous advancement of the accounting discipline and the deepening of practical applications. In the future, as the socio-economic environment evolves and accounting practices continue to develop, the roles of Marxist theory and social science methodology in accounting will become even more pronounced. They will provide more robust support and guidance for the development of the accounting discipline and its practical implementations.

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