

On the Discovery and Construction of Country Studies on the Civic Education

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Abstract

Discovery and construction are the thinking mode, thinking process and research method of scientific research, emphasizing the intrinsic nature and basic law of the research object based on the facts or materials related to the research object. The innovative application of discovery and construction in the country study of civic education has ontological, epistemological and methodological significance for revealing the intrinsic nature and general law of the research object. Therefore, it is necessary to follow the principles of theory of reflection, epistemology and axiology to discover and construct the innovative application in the national research of civic education.

Key words: Country studies on civic education; Discovery and construction; Significance; Practical study; Principles

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INTRODUCTION

Country studies on the civic education, as a theoretical and practical study on the education of civic in a country, aim at revealing the inherent nature and general rules of civic education in the country through analyzing the current status of civic education of one country. And realizing this goal requires the discovery, analysis and abstraction of objective facts materials, which are emotional specific discovery to the abstract construction. As the British physicist Ziman (2002, p.287) said: "In the nature of scientific knowledge, it is inlaid of the jigsaw of 'made' and 'found', that is the same even in its deep basis." That is to say, scientific knowledge is nothing more than the result of "discovery" and "construction" of dialectical effects. Therefore, the correct grasp and use of discovery and construction has a significant role for country research of civic education.

1. THE BASIC CONNOTATION OF DISCOVERY AND CONSTRUCTION

Discovery and construction are two important links of country study of civic education that have close relations and differences, which has a profound philosophical background, especially the Marxist's dialectical materialism epistemology. Lenin pointed out that "from vivid intuition to abstract thinking, and from abstract thinking to practice, this is the way to know the truth, understand the objective reality." (*Complete Works of Lenin [Vol.55]*, 1990, p.142). Similarly, some researchers have conducted scientific research, and they must first collect the relevant information on the basis of practice, and then make analysis and induction on these materials through the abstract thinking, so as to build on the theoretical system about the intrinsic nature and the general theory of the research object, that is, scientific research should be based on the perceptual knowledge,

achieving the dynamic leap from the emotional awareness rational knowledge and from the rational understanding to the practice, and discovery and construction is the process of understanding the necessary ways and means of differentiation.

“Discovery” is more used in the field of natural science, which is usually what we call the scientific discovery, it mainly refers to the human’s process of obtaining scientific results in the exploration of scientific exploration. From the epistemological point of view, discovery refers to reveal the original existence of objective truth and scientific laws through scientific research and academic exploration. The term “discovery” referred to in this article is the starting point of scientific research, which is also a kind of perceptual knowledge activity of intuitive experience and objective fact. It is also the starting point of dialectical understanding, which emphasizes the process of collecting facts or information related to research object. From this dimension, the “discovery” of the country study of civic education mainly refers to the fact that the researcher collects the civic education of the country through field visits, search literature, investigation and research, etc. in order to reveal the inherent nature and general rules of a country’s civic education. The process of understanding the facts or information. The discovery is characterized by vivid image, making the phenomenon of physical content as the content. For example, the study of the curriculum model of civic education in the United States, aims to explore the American civic education related to educational facilities, educational theory, educational content, teaching mode and other objective facts and literature through the investigation and study. Therefore, the “discovery” referred to here is the stage of perceptual knowledge of the process of syndrome differentiation.

“Construction” was originally used in the construction industry to express “construction”, “building” and other meanings, but with the development of the times, it has become a social life and academic research commonly used words, similar to the words “making” “shaping” “processing” “structure” and so on. The construction of theoretical knowledge means that

a person, in a certain situation, when facing new things, new phenomena, new problems and new information, can mobilize the mind in advance prepared in many ways, experience, to explain these new information and answer these new questions, to give them meaning according to the situation in the clues. (Liu, 2005)

In other words, “construction” refers to the “discovery” of the facts or information on the basis of revealing the basic principles of the object or the general law of awareness activities. The “construction” referred to in this article is an analytical method of scientific research, that is, the process of rational understanding of the general attributes, intrinsic and general laws of the research

object, emphasizing the construction of the basic view or the theoretical system. The construction is characterized by abstract generalization, with the essence of things as content. In this sense, the construction of the census of civic education refers to the fact that the researcher constructs the concept, judgment and reasoning of these facts or materials through abstract thinking on the basis of discovering facts or information, and forms the inherent essence of civic education in a country and the dialectical understanding process of general theory of the theoretical system.

2. THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCOVERY AND CONSTRUCTION APPLIED IN CIVIC EDUCATION COUNTRY STUDIES

Discovery and construction are important aspects of the country study of civic education, which are of great significance to reveal the inherent nature and general rules of the country study of civic education. Therefore, the application of discovery and construction in the country studies of civic education must follow the following principles.

2.1 The Principle of Reflection

The discovery and construction are the necessary means and links for the study of the country’s education on civic education. Only by respecting the objective facts and focusing on the practice, making the dialectical discovery and construction of the research object, it can reflect the intrinsic nature and general law of the country study of civic education (*Lenin Complete Works [Vol.28]*, 1990, p.364). Country research of Citizen Education is starting from the objective facts or from the emotional concept, which is two diametrically opposed research methods. From the objective facts and active practice, it is the dialectical materialism research methods. Lenin has pointed out that “the theory of materialism, that is, the theory of reflecting the object through thinking,... the things are existing outside of us. “Our perception and appearance are the images of things.” (Ibid.) Starting from the perceptual concept, make the objective fact service for the perceptual concept, it is a typical idealist research method. Emphasize from the objective facts, pay attention to active practice, does it mean that the objective subject has no analysis, selection and construction of the subjective initiative? If this is denied, it becomes a negative and intuitive reflection of old materialism. The country study of civic education must take the objective reality of the research object as the starting point, pay attention to the active practice, discover the objective facts and the related materials, and carry on the in-depth analysis of these original materials, so as to construct the theory which reflects the intrinsic essence and the general law of the research object.

2.2 Epistemological Principles

The discovery and construction of the national studies of civic education must follow the basic principles of Marxist epistemology: Flying from the sensibility to the rational understanding; then from the rational understanding to the practice, and gradually deepen and improve, which is the principle to understand the dialectical movement. Through the perceptual knowledge, it can form a more intuitive and concrete understanding of the object in the researcher's brain. It is the bond between the objective world and the rational understanding, the beginning of the transformation of the objective world to rational knowledge. Without sensibility, the rational knowledge will lose the foundation and the means to be realized. Mao Zedong pointed out: "The understanding needs to be deepened, and the emotional stage of the understanding needs to be developed to the rational stage—this is the epistemological dialectics." (*Selected Works of Mao Zedong [Vol.1]*, 1991, p.291) Rational understanding reflects the intrinsic relationship between things. There is no rational understanding, it can only produce passive perception, and failing to produce a real sense of perception. As Mao Zedong said, "cognition begins with experience—this is the materialism of epistemology." (*Ibid.*, p.99) Thus, perceptual knowledge is the basis and prerequisite for rational knowledge, and rational cognition is the sublimation and development of perceptual knowledge. Any scientific research results are the excavation and discovery of the intrinsic nature and general law of the research object. The discovery and construction must follow the basic principles of Marxist epistemology, developing through sensibility discovery to rational construction, from rational construction to perceptual discovery, and gradually improve and develop the Theoretical System of the Intrinsic and General Laws of Civic Education.

2.3 Principle of Value Theory

From the dimension of the principle of value, whether the process of researching from sensibility discovery to rational construction can be carried out, the key depends on the value of perceptual discovery on rational construction because it restricts the scientific and importance of discovery and construction. How to measure the value of perceptual discovery? It is mainly reflected in: whether the information found in the country is closely related to the elements of civic education? Or whether it affects and constrains the development of civic education in the country? Or is it necessary to innovate and develop the relevant theory of civic education in the country? It is emphasized that perceptual discovery must be appropriate, targeted, representative and demandable. As Lenin pointed out:

There is no way in social phenomena that is more common and more unforgivable than randomizing out some individual facts and playing examples.... If the

facts are not found from the whole parts instead of selecting out arbitrarily, then they can only be a trifling matter, or even the joke. (*Lenin Anthology [Vol.2]*, 1972, p.107)

In short, in the civic education country study, we should choose valuable sensibility as the basis and source of rational construction, but also choose valuable perceptual and rational construction to adapt to the needs of the development of national research theory of civic education.

3. DISCOVERY AND CONSTRUCTION'S VALUE ON COUNTRY STUDIES OF CIVIC EDUCATION

The discovery and construction could provide ontological, epistemological and methodological basis for Country Studies of Civic Education, which have important theoretical and practical value for the promotion of a country's civic education work.

3.1 From the Perspective of Ontology, It Helps to Reveal and Grasp the Essence and Law of the Study of Civic Education

Revealing and grasping the inherent nature and general rule of a country's civic education is the ultimate goal of conducting a country study of civic education, as Mao Zedong pointed out: "We must see the substance of one thing, making the phenomenon as the guidance. And we should catch grasp the essence after entering the door, this is a reliable scientific analysis." (*Selected Works of Mao Zedong [Vol.1]*, 1991, p.99). Seize the objective nature and the general law of the objective things, you can grasp from the overall complex phenomena, so as to enhance people's ability to understand and transform the world. The discovery and construction are the effective ways and means to reveal and grasp the intrinsic essence and the general law of the research object, which is to make the object of the intrinsic nature and general law be revealed and empirical actually through the sensibility of the fact that the understanding of the rational knowledge, that is, from the phenomenon into the essence.

The study object can form the scientific system of theoretical knowledge only through the dialectical understanding process of discovery and construction, so as to better reveal and grasp its inherent nature and general rules. In the country study of civic education, discovery and construction are not simply to collect the objective facts or information literature related to the study of civic education in the country, but to understand the inherent nature and general rules of the object of study through sensibility cognition, and theoretical system, and interpret or test the complex fickle of the status of civic education with a unique point of view, the system theory. For example, as for the study of

the curriculum model of civic education in the United States, the purpose is to explore and reveal the inherent nature and development of the curriculum model of civic education in the United States. To explore and study these problems, it is necessary to use the discovery and construction. Through the discovery and construction, we can make the scientific grasp of the American civic education curriculum model of the inherent nature and development of law, hence have a better understanding of the development of the United States civic education curriculum model.

3.2 From the Epistemological Dimension, It Could Provide a Logical and Cognitive Approach to the Study of Civic Education

The application of discovery and construction in the study of civic education in the country can enable researchers to better understand the status of a country's civic education. From the dimension analysis, discovery and construction means that the researcher collects and collates the facts or information according to the research plan, the purpose, and regularly organizes the relevant facts or information, and grasp the intrinsic nature and development of the research object through rational analysis. It is the gradual deepening and development process from the metaphor of the sensibility of sublimation to the abstract rational understanding. The discovery and construction are the macroscopic observation and rational thinking of the whole country's research process of civic education, which are the indirect and comprehensive reflections of the self-logic of the country's education research, and on the basis of practice, are the process of flying from perceptual knowledge to rational knowledge, and then from reason to practice, the process of repeated cycles. At the same time, the internal logic and external logic of the study of civic education countries are transformed into scientific and logical thinking logic, forming the systemically logical frame (*Lenin's Complete Works [Vol.55]*, 1990, p.73). Civic education country research requires researchers to continue grasping the inherent nature of civic education and general rules through the phenomenon of civic education in the country, discovery and construction are the thinking logic to adapt to this research process. As Lenin puts it, "the category of thought is not a human instrument, but the regular expression of nature and human." (*The Complete Works of Marx and Engels [Vol.23]*, 1972, p.8), "logic and epistemology should be derived from 'the development of all natural and spiritual life'" (*Lenin's Complete Works [Vol.55]*, 1990, p.73). The cognitive, as a dialectical process of purposefulness and regularity, determines the sustainability of its development in scientific research. Practice, as the driving force for understanding development, determines the generation and development of people's awareness activities.

Discovery and construction in the thinking activities, as a unique impetus to penetrate all activities in the study of practice, promote the development of awareness. In short, the discovery and construction are a dialectical process of understanding from the sensibility to the rational and the deepening practice, which conforms to the general law of the cognition movement and has realistic epistemological significance for the country study of civic education.

3.3 From the Point of View of Methodology, It Provides a Methodological Guide for Exploring the Basic Structure and Development of the Study of Civic Education in the Country

Social science research must be based on advanced methodologies. Civic education country studies also require a good methodology basis. Discovery and construction are a way of thinking and understanding, but also a scientific practice of social practice. The process of discovery and construction is not only the process of discovery of consciousness, perception and appearance, but also the construction process of concepts such as the concept, judgment, reasoning, essence and law. People can only use the method of perceptual discovery and rational construction in the process of research, they gradually reveal and grasp the intrinsic nature and general rule of the research object in practice. In this sense, without scientific discovery and construction, we can not correctly understand and grasp the object of study, but can not deeply understand the intrinsic nature of the object and the general law. In the country study of civic education, it is necessary to adopt various methods and ways to discover a large number of relevant information and information about civic education in this country, then to further study the civic education in this country on the basis of analyzing, selecting and collating these original data. Constructs reflects the inherent nature and general law of civic education in the country, and puts forward suggestions for improving and promoting the rationalization of civic education in the country. Civic education is a kind of extensive and complex social practice. With the continuous deepening of the study of civic education and the continuous expansion of the research scope, the object of civic education research is becoming more and more complicated, which to a large extent has strengthened the comprehensive understanding and grasped the complexity and arduous nature of civic education, The application of the discovery and construction in the study of civic education in the country can provide the researcher with the epistemology, methodology and the basis of value theory, enrich the national education of the country Scientific connotation, broaden the research field of civic education country research, and expand the research field of civic education country research.

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