

Ilia Chavchavadze on the Methodological Aspects of Economic Processes Research and Modernity

Shota Veshapidze

Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

For the true knowledge of socio-economic events and processes, it is of great importance to study and establish a clear system of precise rules for the processing of scientific theory. The purpose of this article is to investigate and analyze how appropriate methodology was developed in Georgian economic thought, how its scientific principles were formed. A century and a half ago, Ilia Chavchavadze established the methodological aspects of the research of economic processes based on the analysis of the past and the vision of the future. His views have a pragmatic, applied meaning even today. It contributes to the current theoretical research and the practical realization of the results of this research. By developing and using appropriate methodology, it is possible to create scientific theories that reflect the objective foundations of Georgia's national interests, its security protection and sustainable economic development, current challenges, contradictions and ways to overcome them.

Keywords: *economic research process steps, systematic research, optimal synthesis, analyzing events and processes in relativity.*

1. Introduction

The spiritual and economic life of human society can be characterized in many ways. If we consider it systematically, we will find many sides in it, not all of which are universally acceptable. Due to its relational nature, what we liked and accepted before may not like us anymore and may turn out to be unacceptable today. And what we like today may not deserve our approval tomorrow, or vice versa. It is important to understand life as a whole in order to correctly assess the past and see in advance where we are going. Only in this way can we correctly define what we should want in the future. With such an approach, it is possible to acquire the necessary knowledge and the ability to increase the use of this knowledge.

This is served by the methodology of research of economic processes, which includes how to study and establish a clear system of precise rules for the processing of scientific theory.

Important aspects of economic processes research methodology were concentrated in Ilia Chavchavadze's views (Abesadze & Veshapidze, 2017). November 8 of this year marks the 185th anniversary of Ilia Chavchavadze's birth. The role of Ilia Chavchavadze in preserving the national identity of Georgia is great. Throughout his life, Ilia Chavchavadze actively created and shaped a true worldview, was directly involved and encouraged in the creation and management of public institutions, promoted the consideration of each person's opinion in order to achieve welfare goals, established true public values. Ilia Chavchavadze's economic views currently have an applied purpose, which is reflected in the researches of Georgian economists.

2. Results and Discussion.

Ilia Chavchavadze considered economic knowledge to be the main prerequisite for people to get out of poverty. During the opening of the agricultural school in the village of Tsinamdriantkari, he addressed the peasantry: "There are many kinds of knowledge. And from here, our children, your children, will bring the knowledge that will make us look into the heart of the earth, will show us where the wealth is, and with what kind of method, with what kind of skill, we can reach that wealth, extract it and use it for the prosperity of the

country and ours. He deeply believed that "a man should be for others as well as for himself" (Chavchavadze, 2005b). In this thought, it is clearly presented that economic knowledge should solve three main issues: what, how and for whom to produce? Ilia Chavchavadze made a significant contribution to the development of education. He constantly tried to open higher educational institutions in Transcaucasia (Zoidze, 2021a). Although he could not personally witness the opening of the university in Tbilisi, he contributed significantly to the preparation of its foundations (Gabashvili, 1996; Chavchavadze, 2007c).

Based on the observation of the material and spiritual existence of people, Ilia Chavchavadze believed that in reality "what was yesterday, is no longer today." Everything that characterizes life changes: "rules, customs, thoughts, feelings, language." Often, what we thought yesterday was an indestructible truth and a necessary necessity, today we consider it a gross error. We are also surprised that our predecessors could not choose between what is acceptable and what is unacceptable. And this is not entirely because we are smarter. If we had found ourselves in the situation and circumstances at that time, we would not have been able to avoid such a "public error". The reason for this is that "the wave of life hides from man the meaning of the thing." What is hidden in life itself. "In it is the whole present of its times and the theory of the future." And science explains to us the bad and the good, ...scientific thought should serve to reflect the truth, which indicates its eternity. "Everything can die, but the thought never."

Life itself produces geniuses to illuminate life, which will move life towards a new, progressive future. "This giant with the arm of his mighty mind will surpass the work of all life; collects together what life has shown; With his discerning eye, he sees through everything, enlightens that collected, and gives a suitable answer to every question of life, to every fact – the true meaning, to every direction – belonging to the path and event, – with one word, he explains, brings to knowledge what was between us and we did not understand. Then he will tear down the foundation of the old and lay a stone in the foundation of the new" (Chavchavadze, 1991b). Science is the coffer where truth is deposited, "the whole hope of mankind's immortality," and the "endless desire of immortality." It renews life, changes it, and if life is healthy, advances knowledge and science. Science explains and realizes a new situation, opens the way to a new, more better. In order to appreciate the fruits of the old life and pave the way for the new life, we need to understand how time changes, where life is going, what fruits the old life brought. With such an approach, we can see our work to be done. It was in this way that Ilia Chavchavadze defined the most important task and doctrine of his time: "Our work is the life of the people of Georgia; Its improvement is our first and last desire" (Chavchavadze, 1991b).

Ilia Chavchavadze believed that in order to understand good and evil, sin and grace, it is necessary to evaluate the epoch first. For this, we need to understand what is the demand of the time, what determines the priorities of the era, what the time demands and act accordingly. The reason for this is that it is impossible for us to want to live life on our own terms. Life itself sometimes creates a rule for itself, sometimes defines its own law, only this law needs to be understood, exposed to the world and, as far as possible, open a way so that nothing can interfere with its production. "Business is the test of everything. We cannot say more than this in advance that we want to enter the circle of the afterlife, call out a deaf cry from her, make her aware of her situation, open the way for the movement." With this, Ilia Chavchavadze did not only describe the task of the scientific journal "Georgia Moambe" that "the magazine should To be undoubtedly in today's circle of life, the eye of not every intelligent journal is often directed towards the future. "The present, born of the past, is the parent of the future," says one philosopher. The farther the eye of the magazine reaches, the better and longer the magazine is, in our opinion." This is the guiding principle of action in the present, based on the analysis of the past and the vision of the future, which Ilia Chavchavadze considered as an action rule (formula) (Chavchavadze, 1991b).

The methodology of step-by-step research of economic processes elaborated by Ilia Chavchavadze, using which he carried out scientific research, is clearly visible in the above-mentioned thinking. According to this methodology, at the first stage of the research, the subject of the research is defined, therefore, what we are researching is determined (Shengelia, 2017). This step is important. It allows to set the paths, to find out at the initial stage of the research, where to look for the causes of the research event, its challenges, and to work out the research tasks. In the next step, the materials available in the specific historical conditions around the subject of the research are searched. It becomes clear how satisfactory and consistent the level of problem solving is with the tasks set. Then the research is carried out according to the set main parameters, and it is substantiated with arguments. After that, a systematic study of the research question is carried out through comparative research, criticism, analysis and synthesis according to all parameters. For this, Ilia Chavchavadze approves the theories of Mill, Bacon, Freeman about "comparative method and criticism" and attached special importance to their use and wrote: "So, How can we straighten up if we don't know our crookedness?" Finally, the key is the conclusion step, in which recommendations are also made on what should be given "priority attention" to solve the problem. With such an approach, we can understand the event systematically, as a whole (Chavchavadze, 1991a; Chavchavadze, 2007d; Chavchavadze, 2007e; Chavchavadze, 2007f; Chavchavadze, 2007g; Veshapidze, 1999, p. 77-85).

Ilia Chavchavadze established the main value bases of the Georgian variety of liberalism model. His views were diametrically different from those of his time and contemporary ultraliberals. Ilia Chavchavadze believed that the source of human dignity is not liberality or retrogradeness, but whether a man is true or a liar. The main thing is the truth, not ideologies (Chavchavadze, 1991d; Chavchavadze, 1997d).

Using such an approach, Ilia Chavchavadze developed the main value foundations, the first of which is the creation of opportunities for free economic development. Based on the discussion of Meissner's project, Ilia argued that it is important to create a competitive environment for the economic development of the country, to find the necessary investments (Bedianashvili, 2020). The general economic well-being of monopolies is hindered by the insecurity of private property, bureaucracy, corruption, improper reforming of the economy, lack of professionalism, neglect of local peculiarities. Ilia Chavchavadze believed that the country should use its absolute and relative advantages in such a way as not to threaten the stability of its economy and make the necessary funds for people's existence easy and cheap. It is important to fully reveal and use the economic potential of the country to the maximum benefit (Chavchavadze, 2005a; Chavchavadze, 2006a).

Ilia Chavchavadze systematically worked out the ways of economic activity success in Georgia. Ilia Chavchavadze believed that the true benefit of a country is based on the fact that others are doing well. The more good the country brings to others, the more it will benefit itself. It is worth noting that Ilia did not consider the "usefulness" of all countries, including the most developed country of his time, England, its "well-being" independently, but in a regional, global context. It was considered as a connecting door between Georgia, Europe and Asia, through which we are always needed to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation between Asia and Europe (Zoidze, 2021b). One of the necessary ways of economic success, Ilia considered openness of the economy (open economy), establishment of foreign economic ties with other countries. Ilia considered it necessary to include the country in the world processes of economic integration (Chavchavadze, 1997e).

Over the past year, our world has experienced major upheavals: a growing food security crisis; Record heat, floods and droughts; COVID-19; inflation (Zoidze and Abuselidze, 2021); And a cruel, senseless war – a war chosen by one man, very brutal (The White House, 2022; Kakulia, 2022; Papava, 2021).

Living in the conditions of confrontational globalization has put Georgia in front of difficult challenges. The consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic have not yet been fully overcome (Zoidze and Veshapidze, 2022b). The war started by Russia against Ukraine on February 24, 2022 is still going on. The world community imposed economic sanctions on Russia. The world is becoming increasingly turbulent and unpredictable. The conflict between geopolitical players for resources and transport routes has a significant impact on the interests of Georgia (Papava, 2022a; 2022b; 2022c). In such conditions, it is important to adapt the aspects of the methodology of research of economic processes based on the analysis of the past and the vision of the future to the present. It will contribute to the protection of national economic interests and the preservation of its identity.

According to the concept of Ilia Chavchavadze, the main goal of society is "the happiness of every person". Ilia believed that it is the duty of a person to establish as the main principle of action a rule of continuous self-evaluation in order to benefit from our work for each individual and the whole society. We are needed not only for ourselves, but also for others (Chavchavadze, 2006b; 2007b; 2007h).

A century and a half ago, Ilia Chavchavadze realized the kinship of Georgian and European spirituality and the good that Georgia can receive by sharing advanced European values. These values allow us to make progress irreversible. This is not a way of studying and using unjustified experiments, but of civilized experience, of "European science" as a "measure" or "source", a standard that has already been tested and used elsewhere. Ilia Chavchavadze noted: "Here is the object and here is the way to achieve it. Young manhood should be prepared with thorough and thorough knowledge, should, as far as possible, study European science thoroughly, start the work of our country. At the same time, the way to achieve the main goal for Georgia should not be "imitating someone else", but "adjusted to our own needs", based on the national soil, to conduct the affairs of our country. Without it, conveying someone else's experience will be useless. These priorities are based on Ilia Chavchavadze's vision of introducing the advanced experience of Europe and others so that we do not lose our traditions, customs, and habits, and thus gain success, i.e. achieve it through optimal synthesis (Chavchavadze, 1997a; Veshapidze, 2017).

It is important that Ilia Chavchavadze considered the events and processes of life in relativity, i.e. in realism, he studied the national interests of Georgia, his place in the world (geostrategic situation), environmental conditions and historical situation (time), according to their dependence, he presents economic processes not as events, but as understanding the ratio. Ilia Chavchavadze noted: "Every time has its own pain, and understanding this pain is the fate of only excellent men, and a true master of history, like a reader, must first sit in the crust of those times and then judge the children of the times themselves. If this were not the case, a person would not find a document, nor an idea, even for the entire crusade wars, because of which the whole of Europe almost lost its life. This is the alphabet of the philosophy of history" (Chavchavadze, 2007e).

Ilia Chavchavadze argued that universal and national economic values condition each other, and "universal" ideals, in their meaning, are "national value" raised to world value. Ilia Chavchavadze also analyzed and argued that the optimal ratio between private and public forms of ownership is when labor is free both in time and space (Chavchavadze, 1991c; 1997b; 2007a).

Ilia Chavchavadze determined the importance of the ratio of common national and regional interests and revealed the feasibility of establishing self-government. In relation to its functions, it was determined that "local trifles" should be resolved by local self-governments, while the state should consider "production of universal legislation" (general law-making activity), "general revenue and expenditure" (finances of the country) and "providing a general army" at the general national level" (defense of the country) (Chavchavadze, 1997c).

Iliia Chavchavadze attributed the determining importance for the economic development of Georgia to the establishment of true local governance, which means the optimal separation of local state governance and self-government, taking into account the "European experience". Iliia Chavchavadze properly assessed the priority importance of maintaining a reasonable ratio of liberal and protectionist foreign economic policy, which has no alternative to ensure "self-existence" and "self-development" (Chavchavadze, 2006a).

As a result of the analysis, Iliia Chavchavadze revealed that it will not be useful for all countries to solve the same issue in the same way, and moreover, not to transfer each other's experience as a shadow. Solving such problems requires different approaches in different countries. Based on the examples of solving the problems of workers' unemployment in England, Germany and France, Iliia offered us an important conclusion. The path already taken by others, their experience is of inestimable value, and we should definitely use it (without distorting its bottom line) based on the study of local characteristics and decisions that are justified in every way.

Iliia Chavchavadze considered "European education, governance of the country, European rule and order" to be exemplary. He demanded that we should open the door to European civilization, because it was the most advanced, progressive. He also believed that advanced experience should be taken into account in all countries. His main conclusion is as follows: in general, we should take from the advanced states everything that is required for the good and happiness of the country.

Based on historical facts and analysis, Iliia Chavchavadze argued that the level of state intervention in the economy depends on specific historical, political, and economic conditions. Its size should be derived from the main task of achieving the highest goal of the well-being of every person in the society, which is "the happiness of every person". Such an approach shows that political paradigms, economic theories – mercantilist, classical liberal, Keynesian, social democratic, ordoliberal (West German) or neoliberal, etc. They should not be considered as universal programs that can be used anywhere and anytime.

The correct answer to any question regarding various economic policies will be: "depending on the circumstances". We need economic facts and analysis to get the details on which the desired outcome depends. The really useful keywords in economic science are non-foreseeable circumstances, contextuality and non-universality. Economics teaches us that there are times of fiscal expansion and times of fiscal restraint. There are times when government should intervene in the value chain and times when it should leave markets alone (Papava and Kkuaseli, 2021; Veshapidze and Zoidze, 2022a; 2022b). Sometimes taxes should be high and sometimes low. Trade should be freer in some directions and regulated in others. Making connections between real-world circumstances and the desirability of certain types of government intervention is what good economics is all about (Rodrik, 2021; Winck, 2021).

The path set by Iliia Chavchavadze is not a path of unjustified experiments, but of civilized experience, the path of studying "European science" and its victory, which has already been tested and used elsewhere. This way has no alternative because it is the most reliable. In this way it is possible to achieve the equality of every person. European teaching and receiving European education (Veshapidze and Zoidze, 2021), European governance, rule and order should be the highest priority for us, because only in this way we will be able to correctly evaluate everything, make a correct diagnosis and help our pain with its medicine (Veshapidze et al, 2021a; Veshapidze et al, 2021b). In order to establish European education and science, governance, rule and order, along with education, it is necessary to implement legislative and economic reforms, to strengthen industry, and to improve people's well-being (Silagadze, 2011).

We can talk about the scientific novelty of economic research methodology in Georgian economic thinking, only in connection with the modern scientific-historical interpretation of the development of this research problem in the scientific community. An approach without "magic" words, "but", and "other things being

equal" is of fundamental importance in the study and justification of economic methods (Papava, 2022e; Papava, 2020a; Papava, 2018).

Georgian economists, well-known academicians, professors of leading universities, scientific-economists, teachers make a collective contribution to the annals of modern economic thinking. They create scientific theories by developing and using appropriate methodology. These theories reflect the objective foundations of Georgia's national interests, its security protection and sustainable economic development, current challenges, contradictions and alternative ways to overcome them.

3. Conclusions

In modern conditions, Georgia has existential challenges. Finding a way out of the current difficult situation in the world requires new economic approaches and important political experiments. Therefore, acting according to the guiding principle of action in the present, based on the analysis of the past and the vision of the future developed by Ilia Chavchavadze, is still relevant today. By using it, it is possible to analyze local features, make reasonable alternative decisions and determine the correct priorities for overcoming modern challenges of Georgia.

Ilia Chavchavadze's research methodology of economic processes has an applied purpose, which is based on the separation of the following steps: definition of the research subject, determination of research tasks, study of the level of compliance of the achieved level of problem processing and solution with the set tasks, conducting a new (own) research according to the main parameters set, conclusion and recommendations . Such an approach allows us to find out both the cause of the problem and ways to overcome it.

Today, when the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic have not yet been fully overcome, the Russia-Ukraine war continues, the economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the world community are getting stronger, the world is becoming more and more disorderly. The conflict between geopolitical players for resources and transport routes has a significant impact on the interests of Georgia. In such conditions, it is important to adapt the aspects of the methodology of research of economic processes based on the analysis of the past and the vision of the future to the present. It will contribute to the strengthening of state thinking in Georgia, the protection of the country's economic interests and the preservation of national identity.

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