The Theory of Development as a Part of Regional Studies
(Case of the Russian less Developed Regions)

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Abstract: The article has the character of a theoretical introduction of the economic and geographical study of economic development. Also article discusses the main features of the modern research of economic development.

Key words: Theory of development · Types and structure of economic development · Algorithm · Meso-level

INTRODUCTION

The theory of “development” became an important direction of scientific research in a period of massive investments in the economy of the Asian part of Russia after the Great Patriotic War [1]. The theory was mostly focused on the newly developing territories in the vast areas of Siberia and Russian Far East. There are different studies on the economic development of certain types of resources, types of the environmental use and study of issues of specific territory potential. Thus at the same time there are no too much publications on the complex analysis [2].

Currently, the theory of development of “developing” issues left to the scientific periphery of socio-economic geography. However, as for the scientific theory and practice are required an assessment of current results, of diverse and multi-layered territories development experience from the pioneer stage to formation of developed territorial socio-economic systems.

The methodological framework of this research stands on the theoretical works in the field of improvement of territorial and industrial structure, economic regionalization, territorial and production complexes, energy production cycles and regional clusters studies. We also accept the ideas of economic zoning which useful for understanding of various aspects of contemporary issues of territorial organization of the economy [3]. We have considered the most important and spatial distinct key issues that determine the nature and core of regional studies problematic characteristics: resources presence, use of the territory and natural resources, geographic population problems (“quantity” and “quality” of the population), specialization and combination of various structures of the economy, the formation of geographical types of economic and infrastructural equipping of the territory, the situation in the various systems of labor division, processes of the region formation and territory management.

The research materials, some conclusions and suggestions are used in the design of northern territories development programs as well as in the preparation of the management decisions on economic development issues [4, 5].

Practical results and research materials have been tested in the implementation and management of a number of national and regional level grants: The Russian Federation Ministry of Education and Science program, Step into the Future Public Academy Grant, theme: the Society and the Government, the Russian Foundation for the Humanities and the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences Contest and others. Thanks to all this organizations.

Economic and geographical analysis of the spatial and economic structures of the economic development of the territory organizes and explains the process of learning how to start and continue process of economic development in a particular area in its steady updating.
The economic and geographical analysis of spatial and economic structures of the territory economic development organizes and explains the development process as a start and an ongoing process of economic development in a specific territory with its continual changes.

As a special territory feature development appears multifaceted. The theory of land development is in the development stage to date. Herewith, a significant backlog on the development of theoretical and methodological foundations of development and socio-economic development of the northern territories was created. Theoretical principles embodied by founders of scientific areas were shaped and refined. In the publications of late 1960s - early 1970s (C.P. Kosmachev, I.F. Zaytsev, N.B. Kultashev, I.R. Spector, V.A. Dergachev, V.F. Zadorozhnyj, E.A. Medvedkova, B.S. Horev, Y.S. Nikulnikov, et al.) were discussed the development process in the context of new territory researches. As a rule, works of foreign experts, which study issues of economic development of Northern territories, have historical and geographical nature hence the special terminology and research methods.

The development process content is strongly “tapered” or treated only “broadly”. Often, spatial (areal) features are marked as the leading parameters of the territory development process, rarely - content (resource) features.

In science, as in the management practice, the paradigm of colonization is dominated. Such a bureaucratic approach to the territory development is extremely extensive and therefore limited effective. Even in the existing development restructuring lays the “break-up” principle which disrupts the natural course of the development process and leads to undue unproven technically and technologically replacement of some development types by others. The extensive economy of the Soviet Union demanded the capture of more and more territory.

The lack of clear definitions of many concepts related to the topic of the study calls for new methodological solutions. Moreover, we believe that determinations in the E.B. Alaev dictionary [6] and in the V.M. Kotlyakov dictionary [7] are not quite accurate. In the author's understanding “economic development” as an economic and geographical phenomenon is considered as a process of interaction between man and the environment, the process of man is getting used to the natural basis of territory, to the nature as a whole where noted the appearance of a certain “development reserve”, a significant increase in value terms and current territory resources which eventually contributes to the further development of the development process. Ideally, economic development is a strong link in the interaction between nature and society. As a result, the territory development of a different rank was constantly “expanding” and “intensifying”.

New methodological solutions by L.A. Bezrukov, V.N. Lazhentsev, V.G. Loginov, A.N. Pilyasov, M.T. Romanov, S.N. Sokolov, A.N. Chilingarov and others were offered after a certain decline in the design of developing topics. Under the influence of this kind of works, the “economic territory development” concept definitions were changed which increasingly tied to the natural resource potential and capacity ranges of land and sea surface and determined the distribution of productive forces. First of all, we should be interested in social effects of the development, but not “gross” (tons, cubic meters, etc.) reflection of new territories development progress.

Types and Structure of Economic Development: During economic development process, territory is saturated with material resources investments, human labor, different power-armament and various degrees of mechanization resulting in modification of a territory natural foundation. The development process is different by action continuity and non-uniformity in the area, type structure, the efficiency of its core types between each one and their correlation. This leads to sudden changes in the development density from place to place. Consequently, the allocation of economic development types is an important methodological problem while being in close connection with the definition of terms used to describe the process of the territory development.

The population distribution is the most far-reaching development type with its base and at the same time with integrating feature - the territory population. The other level of development organization is the subject and resource development aspect. Here, we define agricultural and industrial development types. An important connecting element is the transport development. Other development types are impossible without transport. It overcomes the “autarky” of different territory development periods.
Development types differ in the direction of the economic development process and of its intensity and effectiveness level. Accordingly, interrelated feature series should be selected to classify development types. The indicator of inhabited territories is important to assess differences. On the other hand, the traditional approach of the territory division into types on the basis of population density is true only for the particular historical or technological segments, periods and epochs.

Economic development types are not commonly found in its purest form; they form a certain territorial combination allowing the most efficient use of available production resources. In this regard, it may be appropriate to define types of regional environmental management systems - economic development: zonal, intra-zonal and universal. This vision extends the use of the development theory almost in the entire territory of the Earth.

In general, historical stages, development types and almost all mentioned above exist and at the same time are combined in various ways within Russia. For instance, in the north of Yakutia several forms of economic development of the territory co-exist. There are examples of spatial and temporal development stages convergence. Stages gradually cross one into another and often are combined together. The presence of transitional forms is noted, especially if one considers vast territories. Similar findings were made through the dynamics analysis of the development process within Alaska, another typical representative of the world of northern territories [8].

Cyclic Recurrence of Territories Economic Development: The economic development continuous process is characterized by the temporal and territorial “breaks”. During brief time periods, the development momentum is sharply manifested in the small territorial allotments and over a wide area. This economic activity cycles (booms) are the key moments of economic development types and determine the originality of territory development in the same period of time. Cycles are short-term rapid changes periodically occurring in the process of economic development.

They are common elements in the new territories development especially during the XIX - XX centuries. Their significance is a versatile and is manifested in the change of directions and in the intensity of the territory development. Currently, the term “booms” is mostly used in historical, economic and geographical researches. These pulses of development are called boom-type economic activities and lead to a restructuring of previous development types and development structures.

In a center or a number of centers, the boom is most intense. Geographical boom limits include a center and the most important areas of the periphery. Referring to objectives, the infrastructure includes settlements, vehicles, communications and other human activity related objects and features of the territory development that contributed to each new its active involvement in the economic development process.

We can draw an analogy of climate research by generalizations of long-term weather observations with the study of economic geography and business climate which in turn synthesizes existing economic and geographic prerequisites for the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) development along with physical geography researches in observing regional socio-economic systems.

Thus, significant part of economic and geographic development background of Yakutia vary synchronously with other regions of Russia [9]. At the same time, the cycles identified by researchers in the development of Russia, the Far East and Yakutia do not always correlate with the data of this thesis, because the research territory is too vast to have everything happen in the same way [10].

Scientific Evaluation of the Process of Economic Development of the Territory: Analysis of lessons learned methodical process for the study of economic development shows a few techniques to be tested, practical activities involved only sporadically.

Over the past 20-30 years, a fairly common practice in the natural sciences has become a scientific assessment, which in it does not imply new original research. An example of a scientific assessment in domestic publications focused on the northern studies were made by G.A. Agranat [11], which became a major contribution to the establishment of a scientific assessment practices in social geography and social sciences in general. The main purpose of these scientific assessments is to identify and synthesize existing knowledge to create a complete picture of human development in the North, including the similarities and differences between the North and other parts of the country, which northern territory it formed.

The study in the modern period we propose to use as an algorithm developed by economic and geographical study of the process of economic development of the territory (on the meso-level) (Fig. 1).
Developing classification of the kinds of development

→ Choice of indicators

→ Construction of the integral index development of the territory

- Using of the minimum initial indicators (elements)
- Wide coverage of different components of the process of development
- Selection of the complex indicators

→ The formation of the information base by the basic semantic units

→ Calculation of integral levels of development for the elementary territorial cells adopted in the study

→ Interpretation of results

→ Choosing of the scale of the levels of development

→ Mapping

→ Typological zoning on the level of assimilation

→ Determination of the most important regional differences in the development process of specialization

→ Determination of the main trends of development of the overall progress of the process

→ Enter an additional features

→ Disclosure of local features intensity and effectiveness of the process of development

→ Formation (identification, reconnaissance) certain territorial combinations types of economic development, enabling the most efficient use of the available production resources

Fig. 1: Continued
Isolation actually developed (modern) economic-geographical types of economic development

Isolation emerging (modern) economic and geographic types of economic development

Identification of promising (forecast) economic and geographic types of economic development

Refinement patterns of spatial localization types of economic development

Allocation of the types of the development structures

Zoning of the territory

Scenarios of the development of the territory

Allocation of consolidated units of management (mega-regions, clusters)

Construction of scenarios of the process of development

Priority levels of building the scenario development plan

Priority directions of the scenarios of development

Fig. 1: Algorithm of economic and geographical study of the process of economic development of the territory (on the meso-level)

CONCLUSION

Mastering diverse and created in different historical conditions theoretical approaches to domestic and foreign scientists to study the processes of development is an important step towards the use of their methodological advances, methods and techniques for studying the process of development and the level of development of the territory.

Algorithm of economic-geographical study of the process of economic development of the territory developed by the author that could be the basis for studies on the meso-level (regions (regions) or parts thereof) or local level (within the administrative / municipal districts).

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REFERENCES