



THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING THE DIALECTICAL THINKING CAPACITY OF STUDENTS AT THE MILITARY SCIENCE ACADEMY IN VIETNAM

Hoang Van Tuyenⁱ

MA, Military Science Academy,
Ministry of Defence,
Vietnam

Abstract:

Materialistic dialectical thinking is a type of thinking that develops at the highest level of thinking, plays an important role in the process of world perception and human practical activities. In this article, the author focuses on analyzing the importance of developing the dialectical thinking capacity of students at the Military Science Academy in Vietnam in developing the ability to acquire and store Marxism-Leninism scientific knowledge, whose core is the materialistic dialectics, applying worldview, materialistic dialectical methodology in learning, training and scientific research; the capacity to think logically, synthesize existing knowledge, create new knowledge, the capacity to summarize the practice in learning, training and scientific research.

Keywords: developing the dialectical thinking capacity, students, Military Science Academy, Vietnam

1. Introduction

Developing students' dialectical thinking capacity plays an important role in improving the quality of officer training to meet the requirements of the cause of building the revolutionary, formal, elite, step-by-step modern military. Therefore, it can be affirmed that developing the materialistic dialectical thinking capacity of students at the Military Science Academy is an objective necessity to meet the new requirements of the revolutionary task emphasized in the Party's Resolution "*Continue to strongly and synchronously renew basic elements of education and training in the direction of placing much value on developing learners' qualities and capacities*".ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Correspondence: email hoangvantuyen.msa@gmail.com

ⁱⁱ Communist Party of Vietnam (2016), Document of the 12th National Party Congress, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, p.115.

2. The importance of developing the materialistic dialectical thinking capacity of students of the Military Science Academy in Vietnam

2.1. The capacity of materialistic dialectical thinking helps students gradually improve knowledge and personality of military science officers

On the basis of solving common problems of materialistic dialectical thinking in military science training, it can be defined as: developing the materialistic dialectical thinking of students, who are trained to become military science officers, is a process of purposeful impact of education, training, scientific research and training activities of students in order to consolidate, upgrade and creatively apply principles, rules and categories of the materialistic dialectics and improve the learning quality, build scientific thinking style; struggle to overcome idealistic and metaphysical manifestations in trainees' perceptions and practical activities, helping them realize their goal of becoming "*both virtuous and talented*" military science officers, meeting the needs, the task of developing the military science for national defense in the period of international integration.

The materialistic dialectical thinking capacity helps students master the principles and methods of dialectic to be able to orientate in learning, training and the scientific research. Professional and military activities are specific scientific activities, because they require accuracy and objectivity, and do not allow arbitrariness, negligence, and mistake due to subjectivity. That requires students to train themselves to have certain expertise and they also need to master the knowledge system of basic sciences, branches and majors to bring about certain effectiveness in learning. Students need to master and apply flexibly to solve practical problems and internship problems. To do so, right from the time they study and train at the Military Science Academy, they must be deeply aware of the goals and requirements of the future officer's personality training such as the requirements for quality and competence for step by step self-improvement.

Knowledge needs to be equipped by current students, including: general knowledge, professional knowledge, fundamental knowledge, concentration knowledge and life knowledge, quality knowledge, professional ethics, especially knowledge about the military foreign language and the international relations on national defense, professions related to the military, jobs related to foreign subjects and partners. In order to perfect the above knowledge, students must master and flexibly use the methodology of materialistic dialectical thinking in researching, dealing with specialized knowledge systems and other interdisciplinary knowledge, perceiving right goals, active training requirements, knowledge acquisition in the process of learning and training.

To supplement and perfect professional knowledge, students need to know how to apply the principles of dialectical thinking to research and systematically grasp scientific concepts specialized in military foreign languages, and international relations on their national defense accurately and comprehensively. They must have the ability to apply them flexibly, creatively and effectively to solve the learning and training tasks. For example, students, whose major in military English language, must have in-depth specialized knowledge of military terminology; practice the military English and

translate the military English - Vietnamese; at the same time they also must have knowledge of interdisciplinary science, including: technical knowledge and foreign military tactics; an introduction to linguistics, comparative linguistics, and must have basic knowledge of social sciences and humanities in military, be able to flexibly use working methods, know how to organize and execute the plan to achieve the goal of the activity. Students of other languages, too, must have a thorough preparation of basic and specialized knowledge, so they are able to complete their tasks. If they know how to apply the principles of objectivity, comprehensiveness, historical-specific principles, development, and the evidence-based unity between theory and practice, they will master and use that professional knowledge better in learning and training. Knowledge of basic science and real life must be constantly supplemented and perfected in each student of the Military Science Academy today. The sciences are in the relationship and interact with each other, so, in order to complete their tasks, students must try to acquire and equip themselves with comprehensive knowledge in the economic, political, social and cultural fields. The reality of military and defense activities today shows that students not only master specialized knowledge, but also have knowledge of other natural and social sciences. Psychology and informatics as the background knowledge and specific professional skills will complete the learning task and create the proficiency in professional expertise.

In order to acquire knowledge for professional training and professional skills, students must constantly supplement, consolidate and correct knowledge, and must improve the quality of self-study. They also must have a comprehensive understanding of the target country of the language and foreign relations in defense according to the goals and requirements of training to create a knowledge domain that needs to be occupied in order to have a study and training plan to meet the requirements, the assigned task. To do so, they must be equipped with a relatively comprehensive knowledge system, and method of thinking in humanities-social sciences, military science, military foreign language skill science and international relations. At the same time, they also have to have practical experience quite vividly to test their theoretical knowledge. However, that knowledge is only instrumental knowledge, the initial foundation... for students to confidently apply more in the practice situations and exercises.

The military-activity principle is to protect the Fatherland and not bring troops to invade or intervene militarily in other countries, so the Vietnam People's Army defends its homeland against foreign invaders, and uses foreign activities in defense to prevent partners and subjects early to protect the Fatherland. Therefore, language is both a thinking tool and a weapon of military science students after graduating from university to successfully complete their assigned tasks.

In order to train and acquire sufficient professional knowledge, students must promote the role of materialistic dialectical thinking in properly perceiving the quality of competence according to the training objectives and requirements. For example, dialectical thinking helps students have a dialectical view of the movement and

development of the military, politics, society in general and partnerships, objects in foreign relations in defense and international peacekeeping in the period of international integration. In order to have the full qualities and capabilities of military science officers, in addition to their own training efforts, they must also be trained through the officer's personality in the military education and training environment.

The qualities students need to practice are the socialist political ideals and qualities based on the stance of Marxist-Leninist ideology and Ho Chi Minh's thought. Those are also the passion for the profession, seeking knowledge, inquisitive; are the responsibility to the Industry and the Army; are the spirit of criticism and self-criticism; are humble, honest, eager to learn, dedicating everything for the development of the industry and the military; are motivation, sincere affection, respect for teammates and appreciate the work efficiency: At the same time, they must practice and perfect the way they eat, dress, walk, communicate, and honor their profession to help other people admire and desire to learn and practice to reach ethical standards "Uncle Ho's soldiers".

Thus, good military foreign languages, professional expertise, political expertise, and pure moral qualities will help students of the Military Science Academy gradually improve the character of cadres and officers, Party member, a future bachelor of military science.

2.2. The capacity of materialistic dialectical thinking helps students improve their logical thinking capacity in the process of learning and practicing

Logical thinking ability and the materialist dialectical thinking ability have a close relationship with each other. Logical thinking is a component part of materialistic dialectical thinking, grasping the logical thinking helps them to acquire a part of materialistic dialectical thinking. On the contrary, a solid materialistic dialectic thinking will help us to better master logical thinking. It also means that the materialistic dialectical thinking ability helps students of the Military Science Academy improve their logical thinking capacity.

The dialectical unity between formal logic and dialectical logic has an important meaning in research, study, practice and internship among students. Formal logic helps students master the principle of using forms and laws. Thinking brings accurate knowledge in the static state of things. Dialectical logic trains the method of using principles and categories of scientific thinking in a flexible way that brings high efficiency to the cognitive process. Therefore, logical thinking trains learners with strict principles, rules, and methods of thinking, in order to properly perceive the nature of objects and partners in military and defense activities, in which, element of randomness and vigilance and secrecy are always valued.

Logical thinking uses the thinking manipulations and methodologies to accurately evaluate, direct, and guide perception to reach the truth. Through the process of perceiving the rules, laws, and methods of logical thinking, students have a solid scientific basis to enhance the efficiency of capturing, synthesizing knowledge, and overcome mistakes in scientific thinking and awareness; improve the quality of their

learning and practicing. Formal and dialectical logic knowledge helps students to perceive and evaluate things, both in the static state and in the state of constant movement, change and transformation, thus bringing the true and objective knowledge. The capacity of materialistic dialectical thinking helps students form the ability to comprehensively evaluate problems with a flexible thinking to reflect fully, accurately, truthfully and objectively and to overcome the metaphysical, eclectic and fallacious thinking in professional practice and internship. If mastering the materialistic dialectic thinking, students will be able to creatively apply dialectical methodology to solve military tasks of interns such as they must have an objective, comprehensive viewpoint, a viewpoint of history - specific in approaching and dealing with work. They must also ensure the accuracy of knowledge, skills to receive and handle the relevant information.

2.3. The capacity of materialistic dialectical thinking helps students improve the efficiency of knowledge applying in practice, the internship of scientific research

The application of knowledge in practice and internship by students plays a decisive role in assessing the quality of knowledge acquisition and training to become future officials and scientists. The practice summary helps them have the conditions to associate theory with practice, study with practice to understand and deepen scientific knowledge for themselves. In fact, to help them perceive theory and practice, internships always have different distances between students in the same learning conditions. President Ho Chi Minh affirmed: *“Reasoning is very necessary, but if the way of studying is not correct, there will be no results. Therefore, while learning to reason, we need to emphasize: Theory must be related to reality”*ⁱⁱⁱ. Practical activities are decisive in testing students' knowledge. If lacking the practical activities, students are easy to make mistakes, and have limitations in scientific awareness.

Materialistic dialectical thinking as mentioned above is highly practical, demonstrating the dialectical unity between theory and practice. The higher the capacity of materialist dialectic thinking is, the closer the gap between theory and practice is. Therefore, materialistic dialectical thinking in summarizing the learning and training practices helps students to creatively apply rules, viewpoints and principles to effectively solve the posed situations. On that basis, they overcome mistakes in perception such as exaggeration of theory, separation from practice, the problems of metaphysics, idealism, personality... to improve the quality of their own learning and scientific research. In fact, students with this capacity limitation will fall into the dogma. This affects their learning results and the quality of their work later.

Practical activities in students are expressed through self-study, self-research, practice activities, internships, extracurricular activities, professional practice activities, in which, practical activities, internship have the most decisive significance for the practice summary of students who are trained to become the military science officer. If in knowledge acquisition activities, students only play the role of recipients of scientific knowledge, in practical activities they must play the role of a consultant in planning,

ⁱⁱⁱ Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (2017) Textbook of Researching, Lecturing, p. 94.

organizing and operating, implementing the realization of knowledge into work to test the results of his labor. Through practical activities, students can observe, grasp, and draw lessons to adjust, supplement, and perfect the knowledge acquired in learning and training. In addition, it also helps them to form skills, techniques, professional experience, grasp the practical requirements of the profession to consolidate and flexibly use the appropriate and effective working methods.

Equipped with materialist dialectical thinking capacity, right in the learning process, students had to improve their sense of learning, acquiring scientific knowledge, mastering and creatively applying principles, views, and the materialistic dialectical methodology to learning, scientific research and professional training. Moreover, they should not overestimate, attach importance to this science, disregard other sciences, and should not impose subjectivity, rely on, blame circumstances. In addition, students, who are trained to become military science officers, have a sense of learning, absorbing methods of capturing scientific knowledge, mastering principles and the working methods, creating an interaction between factors in the process of work; thereby, grasp the requirements of the job to promptly supplement and perfect knowledge, improve the quality of their own learning.

The materialistic dialectical thinking capacity also trains students to be aware of the dialectical unity between elements, parts and the processes in learning and the scientific research. At the same time, it also helps students have an approach, a dialectical view of the skill development of the profession through different historical periods. They know how to inherit and select the advantages of the past, promote achievements of the present, proactively forecast future tasks, and at the same time, move to a new and higher cycle where the requirement that practice poses is to continue to raise awareness.

2.4. Materialistic dialectical thinking capacity helps students improve their ability to summarize the practices in learning, scientific research, practice, and internship

The practice summary creates conditions for students to experience, interact with professional reality, grasp knowledge and work experience. The practice summary in Vietnamese students requires them to be able to correctly identify the research problem, they must generalize and abstract the science to derive new knowledge. Besides, they must associate theory with practice, learn with practice, overcome mistakes in thinking, research and practical activities. In fact, if students study and practice hard and diligently without being able to summarize the practice in learning, they are prone to suffer from dogmatism, subjectivity and imposition. Therefore, the practice summary in students have given them the ability to be autonomous in deriving the meaning of knowledge such as correctly identifying the summary content, basic knowledge, focus, and theoretical and practical significance of the research problem in practice, internship, and other social activities, to draw lessons from experience in managing and operating the work, using objective and effective working methods. In the process of learning, researching, and practicing professional skills, the application of knowledge to practice, intern, perception, discovery and detection of new knowledge requires students to be

able to summarize the practice, generalize and reason in order to enter into general issues of regularity.

In the process of applying learned knowledge to practice and internship in students, sometimes there is a mismatch between theory and practice, which may lead to incorrect application or unreasonable theory. That fact requires students to adjust their actions and methods of application, modify and supplement professional knowledge and appropriate professional experience; remove the gap between theory and practice. On that basis, it will be possible to overcome voluntarism, dogmatism or empiricism.

The capacity to summarize the practice in students is expressed through activities of learning, practicing, internship, scientific research and professional practice, as well as their daily practical activities. When dealing with daily practical activities, they must be able to analyze, evaluate, compare and contrast with the learned theory to adjust, supplement and perfect their knowledge. To complete the task of summarizing the practice, students need to correctly and successfully identify problems in the process of collecting and processing information in learning and professional training. They must draw their own experiences, draw lessons in the process of listening to lectures, observing practical situations related to professional activities in order to generalize, abstract, and supplement knowledge as a necessary condition and premise to help students successfully complete the career tasks set out in the future.

The capacity to summarize the practice in students of the Military Science Academy in Vietnam is also reflected in the ability to creatively apply scientific knowledge to professional practice. In practice, in internship, they must know how to grasp situations in the practice, find out the contradictions between knowledge in books and reality.

The requirement of the practice summarization capacity in students of the Military Science Academy in Vietnam today is to be able to put theory into practice, associate learning with practice to improve the quality of practice, internship, know how to analyze, observe meticulously, generalize, reason, find out the objective laws of social practice related to their profession to perfect their knowledge. At the same time, they must also be able to practice effective summarizing skills.

3. Conclusion

Currently, the world and regional situation has complicated and unpredictable developments; international cooperation takes place extensively in all fields; the aspects of cooperation and struggle take place alternately in the object and the partner. Accordingly, the requirements and tasks of national construction and defense have a new development. After graduating from university, students who are trained to become military science officers perform the task of grasping the domestic and international situation, ensuring to provide information to superiors in planning the domestic and foreign policies and strategies, in terms of military and national defense. In order to complete the assigned tasks, students who are trained to become military science officers

must have all the qualities and capabilities of a revolutionary cadre, in which, the capacity for materialist dialectical thinking is a quality that determines the quality and effectiveness of knowledge acquisition, application in learning and training to ensure the output standards as party members, officers, bachelor of military science. This is the “key” to help them enhance the quality of their learning, practicing and acquiring knowledge of the social sciences and military humanities, military art-science, and military techniques, and apply them creatively in the organization and practical activities to meet the requirements and tasks in the new period of the revolution.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

About the Author

MA Hoang Van Tuyen is working at Military Science Academy, Vietnam.

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