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# THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO THE DETERMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC CATEGORIES "CAPITAL" AND "CAPITALIZATION"

# ТЕОРЕТИЧНІ ПІДХОДИ ДО ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ ЕКОНОМІЧНИХ КАТЕГОРІЙ «КАПІТАЛ» ТА «КАПІТАЛІЗАЦІЯ»

**Vorobei Ruslan**
Postgraduate Student,
National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9823-665X

**Воробей Руслан Євгенійович**
аспірант,
Національний університет біоресурсів і природокористування України

The article analyzes theoretical approaches to the interpretation of the economic categories' "capital" and "capitalization". The existing works of scientists of various economic schools regarding the definition of the meaning of the concept of "capital", their change and evolution throughout the history of the development of economic thought were summarized and systematized. The analysis was carried out and the distribution of supporters among foreign and domestic scientists was given according to the three main basic directions of interpretation of the "capital" definition – capital as production equipment, capital as money and capital as a function. An analysis and systematization of approaches to the definition of the concept of "capitalization" derived from the term "capital" was also carried out, the main directions by which the existing approaches are summarized – capitalization as a quantity and capitalization as a process.

**Keywords:** enterprise capital, financial resources, company capitalization, sources of financing, reproduction of capital.

Капітал та капіталізація є одними з фундаментальних концепцій в сучасній економічній системі. Науковці впродовж всієї історії звертали увагу на природу капіталу та висловлювали свої бачення до її визначення. Капітал та капіталізація займають важливу ланку в механізмі функціонування економіки та від побудови стратегії їх ефективної роботи та взаємодії багато в чому залежить загальний економічний розвиток суспільства. Це все обумовлює актуальність подальшого дослідження, систематизації та структурування визначених економічних категорій, а саме «капітал» та «капіталізація». Виходячи з цього, у статті проаналізовано теоретичні підходи до трактування економічних категорій «капітал» та «капіталізація». Було узагальнено та систематизовано існуючі напрацювання науковців різних країн, економічних шкіл та напрямків щодо визначення змісту поняття «капітал», їх зміна та еволюція впродовж історії розвитку економічної думки. Проведено аналіз та наведено розподіл прихильників серед зарубіжних та вітчизняних вчених по визначених трьох основних базових напрямках трактування дефіціції «капітал» – капітал як виробниче устаткування або реальний капітал, що уособлює матеріалістичний підхід; капітал як гроші або фінансовий капітал та капітал як функція або певні специфічні суспільні відносини, що дозволило оцінити як еволюцію зміни підходів до трактування поняття «капітал» впродовж історії, так і зрозуміти відмінності в підходах зарубіжних та вітчизняних науковців. Також проведено аналіз літературних джерел, узагальнення та систематизацію підходів до визначення поняття «капіталізація», що є похідним від терміну «капітал», визначено основні спільні напрямки за якими узагальнюються та класифікуються існуючі підходи – капіталізація як величина у формі ринкової вартості акцій публічних компаній, бухгалтерської вартості матеріальних та нематеріальних активів, дисконтованої вартості майбутніх грошових потоків, а також та капіталізація як процес у вигляді перетворення економічних результатів діяльності в капітал або початкового авансування ресурсів для формування капіталу.

**Ключові слова:** капітал підприємства, фінансові ресурси, капіталізація компанії, джерела фінансування, відтворення капіталу.

**Problem statement.** In the conditions of the necessity to accumulate a significant amount of capital resources, their use, transformation and ensuring economic efficiency in order to stabilize the economic situation, as well as accelerate the economic development of the country in the future, a comprehensive understanding of the essence of capital and approaches to defining the economic category "capitalization" is a necessary prerequisite.

The concepts of "capital" and "capitalization" have attracted the attention of economists throughout the entire history of the existence of economic science – starting with ancient Greece and continuing with modern economic schools.

Based on the lack of final certainty in the approach to understanding the essence of the economic categories "capital" and "capitalization", their further research, systematization and finding of relationships between different approaches is relevant, which will allow to further structurize them.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The economic categories "capital" and "capitalization" were reflected in the writings and researches of many famous foreign scientists, including Aristotle, A. Montchrestien, G. Scaruffi, T. Mann, A. Turgot, P. Boisguilbert, F. Quesnay, A. Smith, D. Ricardo, W. Petty, K. Marx, K. Menger, E. Bohm-Bawerk, F. von Wieser, A. Marshall, A. Pigou, J. Clark, I. Fisher, J. M. Keynes, J. Hicks, T. Veblen, as well as many domestic scientists – V. Bazylevych, S. Mochernyi, O. Danilov, H. Kramarenko, N. Davydenko, O. Chorna, I. Ziatkovskyi, O. Bila, A. Poddieriohin and others.

The works of the mentioned scientists are fundamental for understanding the essence of capital and capitalization, as well as the formation of several main directions of their research – object based, for which capitalization is considered as a static quantity, and process based – as a mechanism of transformation of economic resources into capital.

Studies of the essence of capital and capitalization, clarification of their classification features and structuring of relationships between different approaches are still relevant.

**The purpose of the article.** The purpose of the article is research and systematization of existing approaches to the interpretation of the essence of the economic categories "capital" and "capitalization".

**The main research material.** Capital is considered and studied by scientists in various forms of its manifestation: as a production resource, as a financial resource, or attention is focused on the very ability of capital to self-reproduce and multiply.

Given the lack of a single approach to defining the basic definition, there is also no single approach to defining the concept of "capitalization", this category is considered as a process of transformation of added value into capital; as an indicator of the market value of companies on the stock market; as a process of primary investment of capital in the formation of production resources, as well as other less well-known approaches.

The history of the study of capital began with Aristotle's attempt to investigate the essence of social relations, which, according to modern approaches, are classified as capitalist and were carried out as early as the IV century. BC, Aristotle found out that "money can be used both to obtain the necessary goods of life in the process of trade (exchange) and to make a profit at the expense of usurious transactions" [1]. Based on this approach, Aristotle divided the sciences of wealth into two areas – "economics" and "chrematistics" [2]. Although these first attempts to investigate prototype capitalist relations and the nature of capital were fragmentary, they laid the foundation for understanding the heterogeneity of this economic category and highlighted several different functions and areas of application of capital – circulation and accumulation.

Starting from the XV–XVI c. representatives of various economic schools began to actively explore the essence of "capital" and form their own vision of this economic category. Mercantilists (A. Montchrestien, G. Scaruffi, T. Mann) equated capital with money and noticed the process of its growth in ensuring an active foreign trade balance, describing it as a state when the country sells more expensively or buys cheaper [3].

Physiocrats (A. Turgot, P. Boisguilbert, F. Quesnay) continued the study of the essence of capital after the mercantilists. They believed that the only source of wealth creation is agriculture. By capital, they understood the totality of material factors of production, which are used in agriculture [4].

A. Smith and other representatives of the school of classical political economy considered labor to be the primary source of wealth, and capital to be the main driving force of economic growth [2]. Scientists of the classical school of political economy also developed the opinion of physiocrats regarding the division of capital into fixed and circulating capital. Fixed capital included buildings and structures, production equipment, tools and "human capital" in the form of acquired skills and abilities of employees, and working capital included finished products, stocks and cash.

German economist and philosopher K. Marx considered capital in three dimensions:

1. Capital as self-increasing value. "Each new capital in its first instance enters the scene, that is, on the market, on the commodity market, on the labor market, or on the money market, always in the form of money, money that through certain processes must turn into capital" [5].

2. Capital as a certain type of specific social relations. "Capital appears only where the owner of the means of production and the means of subsistence finds a free worker on the market as a seller of his labor power," "The worker works under the control of the capitalist who owns his labor. The capitalist takes care that the work is performed properly and that the means of production are used expediently, therefore, that the raw material is not wasted and that the tools of labor are treated sparingly, that is, that they are used only as much as is required by their use in work" [5].

3. Capital as a set of means of production. "...that part of the capital that is transformed into means of production, that is, into raw material, auxiliary material and means of labor, does not change its value during the production process. Therefore, I call it a permanent part of capital, or, in short, permanent capital" [5].

Scientists of the Austrian School of Economics (E. Bohm-Bawerk, F. von Wieser, K. Menger) considered capital to be an intermediate product derived from the basic factors of production – land and labor, the main function of which is to increase productivity.

The Cambridge Neoclassicals (A. Marshall, A. Pigou) divided capital into two categories:

1. Commercial and industrial capital. "Such capital can be defined as that which consists of those external goods that a person uses in his enterprise, either by keeping them for the purpose of selling them for money, or by applying them to the production of things to be sold for money" [6].

2. That which brings income in monetary form. "To the things in his possession must be added those to which his right extends and from which he derives income, including here loans made to them on pledge or otherwise, and any control over capital which he may acquire by using complex mechanisms of the modern "money market"" [6].

According to the given classification,in fact, capital is divided into production and financial capital.

I. Fisher, a representative of the neoclassical direction of economic science, interpreted capital wealth as "... parts of the material universe that are under human control at any time." At the same time, according to the approach of I. Fisher, capital is in three forms of manifestation:

1. Capital property – tangible capital goods.
2. Capital value.
3. "Desirability (worth) of capital" – subjective capital.

One of the most famous economists of the 20th century, J. M. Keynes, described capital as "a thing that, during its existence, brings income to its original value" [7]. So, J. M. Keynes considered the main characteristic of capital to be its ability to generate income.

American economist T. Veblen divided capital into real, i.e., productive material resources that are involved in the production process, and fictitious – in the form of property rights to resources thanks to which profit is obtained [8].

Let us also consider the approaches of domestic scientists to the definition of the concept of "capital".

V. Bazylevych considers that capital is self-increasing upfront value, as well as certain investments or assets that enable income [9].

S. Mochernyi interprets capital as a set of production relations of the capitalist mode of production, in which the means of labor, certain material goods, money, objects of intellectual property and various types of securities, etc. are a tool of exploitation, appropriation of part of someone else's unpaid labor [10].

O. Kramarenko and O. Chorna define capital as the financial resources of enterprises, necessary for the organization of its economic activity and use in economic turnover to obtain income and profit [11].

According to the definition of I. Ziatkovskyi, capital is material means and money invested in an enterprise for the purpose of carrying out entrepreneurial activities [12].

A. Poddieriohin claims that capital is financial resources that are involved in economic turnover, which ensures their growth [13].

L. Katan defines capital as accumulated by saving a stock of goods in the form of cash and capital goods, which are involved by its owners in the economic process as an investment resource and production factor for the purpose of obtaining income, the functioning of which in the economic system is based on market principles and is related to the time factor, risk and liquidity [14].

To summarize the approaches of foreign and domestic scientists to the interpretation of the concept of "capital", we can conclude that there is no single approach, but the common classification features under which each definition falls are the forms of manifestation:

1. Capital as a production resource – real capital.
2. Capital as money – financial capital.
3. Capital as a function – specific social relations.

Let us consider the distribution of views of scientists in the context of the given classification in Table 1.

As we can see, the interpretation of capital as production resources prevails among foreign scientists, while domestic scientists mainly consider capital as monetary funds.

The term "capitalization" is derived from the economic category "capital".

K. Marx in the second volume of "Capital" considered capitalization as a process, he noted that "..under normal conditions, one part of the surplus value must always be spent as income, and the other must be capitalized" [15].

At the current stage, most foreign scientists consider capitalization as a value calculated by multiplying the number of company shares by their market price.

In the works of domestic scientists there are their own approaches to the interpretation of the term "capitalization".

A. Hrytsenko considers capitalization as a process of advancing resources in order to obtain future economic benefits, defining capitalization as "the transformation of any resources into value capable of producing new value" [16].

V. Andriichuk defines the concept of "capitalization" as a process of intensive capital building of the industry in order to increase its productivity by capitalizing the own incomes of agricultural commodity producers, infusing capital from other areas of the economy, attracting investments and movement of capital within the industry from less efficient owners to more efficient ones [17].

L. Pronko states that capitalization is "an estimate of the value of an enterprise, a plot of land, securities and other property, by determining the amount of expected income for the period during which it is planned to be used" [18].

O. Baranovsky considers capitalization as an indicator calculated by multiplying the total number of shares of a given issuer by the average price of the best quotations of the share for purchase and sale [19].

S. Mochernyi in his work "Economic Encyclopedia" defines capitalization as the process of using a part of the surplus value for the expansion of capitalist production, as well as in the form of the process of investing part of the income in securities and obtaining

Table 1

**Approaches of scientists to the interpretation of the concept of "capital"**

<table>
<tr><th>Financial Capital</th><th>Real Capital</th><th>Capital as Function</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Neoclassical Economics (I. Fisher)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Marxism (K. Marx)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">S. Mochernyi</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Institutionalism (T. Veblen)</td><td>Keynesian economics (J. M. Keynes)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">L. Katan</td><td>V. Bazylevych</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">The Cambridge Neoclassicals (A. Marshall, A. Pigou)</td><td rowspan="6"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Aristotle</td><td>Physiocrats (A. Turgot, F. Quesnay)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mercantilism (G. Scaruffi, T. Mann)</td><td>Classical political economy (A. Smith et al.)</td></tr>
<tr><td>O. Kramarenko, O. Chorna</td><td>Austrian school of economics (E. Bohm-Bawerk, F. von Wieser, K. Menger)</td></tr>
<tr><td>I. Ziatkovskyi</td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>A. Poddieriohin</td></tr>
</table>

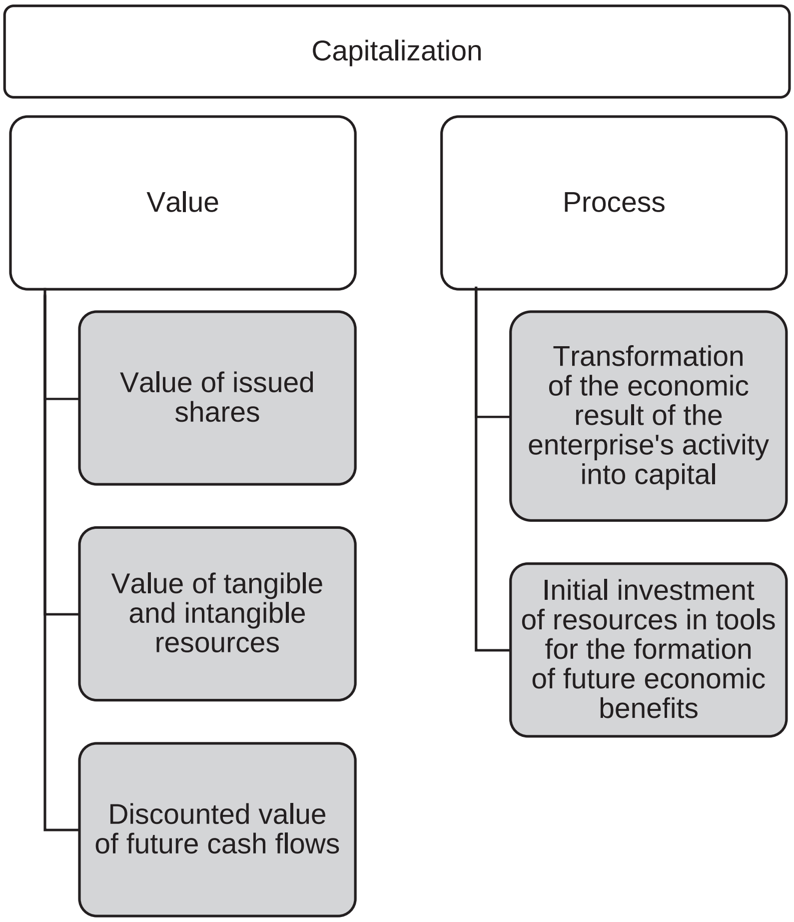


**Figure 1. Classification of capitalization by form of manifestation**

a profit on them in the form of a percentage of capitalization [10].

By systematizing the approaches of scientists to the interpretation of the economic category "capitalization", it is possible to divide them conventionally into those that describe capitalization as a process and those that describe it as a value. The graphically specified distribution is shown in Figure 1.

**Conclusions.** Thereby, researching and consistently analyzing approaches to the interpretation and understanding of the essence of the economic category "capital" made it possible to determine potential forms of its manifestation in the form of financial or production resources, as well as specific social relations related to obtaining ownership of future economic benefits.

At the same time, the concept of "capitalization" also has several approaches to interpretation:

1) Market value of issued shares;
2) The balance sheet value of the company's tangible and intangible resources;
3) Discounted value of future cash flows;
4) Transformation of the financial result of activity into capital;
5) Investing resources in tools for obtaining future economic benefits.

Given the need to adapt the domestic economy to competition on the world capital market and the need to attract significant resources for its growth, it is necessary to constantly improve and structure approaches to understanding fundamental economic categories, as well as establish relationships between them to build effective economic strategies.

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