

Sumio Shigeta

**Zu Sumio Shigeta: Zur Herkunft und Verbreitung des Begriffs „Kapitalismus“, in NF 2004, S. 87–94:**

2006. 7. 11.

Dear Prof. Dr. Rolf Hecker,

I received *Beiträge zur Marx-Engels-Forschung Neue Folge 2004*. I thank you sincerely to publish my thesis.

The word “Kapitalismus” in Marx that I found in his writings are as follows.

**Manuscript etc.**

(1) Zur Kritik der politischen Ökonomie (Manuskript 1861–63) MEGA, II/3.3, S. 1114. Photocopy S. 1115.

We can inject the photocopy (S. 1115). The word was seemed to be deciphered from “d. Capt.” to “der Capitalismus”. But some Japanese researcher insists to have to be deciphered to “das Capital”, not to “der Capitalismus”. However, I can’t judge which is right.

(2) *Das Kapital (Ökonomische Manuskripte 1863–65). Zweites Buch* (Manuskript 1) MEGA, II/4.1, S. 358. Photocopy S. 361: “d. Cpitlsm” → “der Capitalismus”.

(3) *Das Kapital*, Zweiter Band. MEW 24, S. 123. MEGA, II/12, S. 94. Edited by Engels.

**Letters etc.**

(1) Brief an Engels (14. Sept. 1870) (Germany) MEW 33, S. 65: “Das Buch des Schäffle benamst :’Kapitalismus und Socialismus etc.’”

(2) Randglossen zu Adolph Wagners “*Lehrbuch der politischen Ökonomie*” (1879–1880) (Germany) MEW-19, S. 360. Title of the Schäffle’s book (“Herr Schäffle in “Kapitalismus” etc.”).

(3) Brief an die Redaktion der “*Otetschestwennyje Sapiski*” (geschrieben etwa November 1877) (French) (Not send) MEW 19, S. 111: Kapitalismus. MEGA, I/25, S. 116: capitalisme.

(4) Brief an Nikolai Franzewitsch Danielson (10. April 1879) (English) two times MEW-34, S. 373: Kapitalismus. Karl Marx Fredrick Engels Collected Works, Volume 45, p. 356: capitalism.

(5) Entwürfe einer Antwort auf den Brief von V. I. Sassulitsch. [Erster Entwurf] (February–March, 1881) (French) (Not send) MEW 19, S. 392: Kapitalismus. Marx-Engels-Archiv, Bd. 1, S. 326: “la production capitaliste”. MEGA, I/25, S. 228: “la production capitaliste”.

For this letter, MEW describes by the word “Kapitalismus” in Germany. But Rjazanov (Marx-Engels-Archiv, Bd. 1, 1969) and MEGA describe by the word of “la production capitaliste” in French. In it there aren’t the word “capitalisme”.

(6) Entwürfe einer Antwort auf den Brief von V. I. Sassulitsch. [Zweiter Entwurf] (French) (Not send) MEW 19, S. 400: “Kapitalismus”. Marx-Engels-Archiv, Bd. 1, S. 334: “capitalisme”. MEGA, I/25, S. 234: “capitalisme”.

### Use Frequency for “capitalism” words

(1) Zur Kritik der politischen Ökonomie (Manuscript 1861-63)

MEGA <sup>2</sup> II/	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	Note total
bürgerliche Produktion	3	1	15	13	4	3	39
kapitalistische Produktion	58	44	137	123	84	83	529
bürgerliche Produktionsweise	0	0	4	0	1	1	6
kapitalistische Produktionsweise	15	5	18	7	28	69	142
bürgerliche Gesellschaft	4	9	4	5	4	3	29
kapitalistische Gesellschaft	0	2	0	1	1	0	4
Kapitalismus	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

## (2) Das Kapital

	<b>Vorwort/ Nachwort</b>	<b>Vol. 1</b>	<b>Vol. 2</b>	<b>Vol. 3</b>	<b>total</b>
bürgerliche Produktion	2	0	0	0	2
kapitalistische Produktion	4	100	98	132	334
bürgerliche Produktion	0	2	0	0	2
kapitalistische Produktion	4	100	98	132	334
bürgerliche Produktionsweise	0	1	0	1	2
kapitalistische Produktionsweise	4	63	21	201	289
bürgerliche Gesellschaft	2	8	0	6	18
kapitalistische Gesellschaft	1	3	7	2	13
Kapitalismus	0	0	1	0	1

**The terms of “Kapitalismus” in Marx**

I don't think that the word of “Kapitalismus” in Marx possess itself of its own distinctive feature and significance in terminology about capitalism words. The reason is as follows. In his publishing books and articles Marx never used entirely the word “Kapitalismus, capitalisme, capitalism”. Only in his manuscripts and letters he used the word “Kapitalismus”.

Moreover, as it shows above, the case of use about the word “Kapitalismus” was very rare. In addition, use of that words in letters are in English or French, except Schäffle's book title in German letters. And that, the meaning of the word of “Kapitalismus” in Marx is essentially same as “kapitalistische Produktion” or “kapitalistische Produktionsweise”.

The terminology of Marx about the capitalism – “bürgerliche Produktion(sweise)” and “kapitalistische Produktion(sweise)” – are accurately. The “bürgerliche Produktion” and “bürgerliche Produktionsweise” was formed in *Letter to Annenkov* (1846, French) and *Misère de la philosophie* (1847,

French) and *Die moralisierende Kritik und die kritisierende Moral* (1847, German). These terms express the concept which shows the economic relations of the modern society on the basis of “Produktion” or “Produktionsweise” originated from the historical materialism which was confirmed in *Deutsche Ideologie* (1845–46).

But after 1861 Marx converted essentially this “bürgerliche Produktion” and “bürgerliche Produktionsweise” to the words of “kapitalistische Produktion” and “kapitalistische Produktionsweise”.

Why these terms of the “bürgerliche Produktion” and “bürgerliche Produktionsweise” were converted to “kapitalistische Produktion” and “kapitalistische Produktionsweise”? And how was this conversion accomplished?

The turning point of this converting to the terms of capitalism is founded in *Grundrisse der Kritik der politischen Ökonomie* (1857–58). In *Grundrisse* Marx constituted two chapters – “The Chapter on Money” and “The Chapter on Capital”. In “The Chapter on Money” he summarized about the economic basis concerning commodity and money relation in the terms of “die Produktion auf der Tauschwert” etc.

As compared with that, in “The Chapter on Capital” Marx summarized about the economic basis concerning wage-labourer and capitalist relationship on the form of production in modern society in the terms of “die auf das Kapital gegründete Produktion” etc, with distinct feature from commodity and money relationship.

In *Planentwurf zum Kapitel über das Kapital* (1859–61) and *Referate zu meinen eignen Heften* (1861), the terms of “die auf das Kapital gegründete Produktion” etc were converted to the terms of “kapitalistische Produktion” and “kapitalistische Produktionsweise”.

After *Zur Kritik der politischen Ökonomie (Manuskript 1861–1863)*, Marx used constantly the terms of “kapitalistische Produktion” and “kapitalistische Produktionsweise” in place of the “bürgerliche Produktion” and “bürgerliche Produktionsweise”, and afterward he continued to use them in *Das Kapital*.

In *Zur Kritik der Politischen Ökonomie (Manuskript 1861-1863)* Marx referred to “Ric. faßt die bürgerliche, noch bestimmter die kapitalistische Produktion, als absolute Form der Produktion auf” (MEGA II/3.4, S. 1247). In it Marx pointed out that the term of “bürgerliche Produktion” didn’t show accurately the definite content of kapitalistische Produktion.

The point at issue is not only the terms to express the concept of the regulating factor in the modern society. Marx evolved and confirmed the content of it (the economic basis concerning wage-labourer and capitalist relationship

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on the form of production in modern society with distinct feature from commodity and money relationship) more accurately, and according to that concept of the content, he determined the new terms (“kapitalistische Produktion” and “kapitalistische Produktionsweise”).

New terms (“kapitalistische Produktion” and “kapitalistische Produktionsweise”) are fitted terms for the new concept which Marx attained about the content of it more accurately.

Sincerely Yours

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