# **Exploration of the Research Paradigm of Sports Sociology from the Perspective of Field Theory**

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Abstract: Sports as a group social practice activity, is an important activity that reflects changes in social class. Bourdieu analyzes the "sports field" from the dimensions of field, capital and habituation, and analyzes various phenomena in sports sociology, providing a new research paradigm for the development of sports sociology. This article adopts research methods of literature and logical analysis, by explaining Bourdieu's "field theory" picture, examining the internal relevance of field theory and sports sociology, from the special relationship between sports and society explore the research paradigm of sports sociology, and promote the development of sports sociology.

**Keywords:** field theory, sociology of sports, Bourdieu

#### 1. Introduction

As a comprehensive and applied subject integrating sports kinesiology and sociology, sociology of sports takes the research and interpretation of sports phenomena as the basic starting point, and finally reveals the laws and trends of the development of social sports in order to promote the development of social sports. Sports phenomena are generated and developed in a certain social space, forming many relatively independent small-world sports phenomena[1]. This kind of sports phenomenon that occurs in a specific "field" has attracted the attention and research of some sociologists, and then formed the field theory. French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu is the creator of field theory. In his view, "The world is composed of many relatively independent small spaces. The small worlds formed by these small spaces have their own logic and necessity objective relational space". The world, as a network, is formed by linking points. Relatively independent points become a field by themselves, or form a field with other points. This is how Bourdieu's field theory was formed. From the perspective of sports sociology, sports phenomena are formed within a certain field. Using field as an analysis tool and applied to the research of sports sociology can effectively analyze many factors in sports phenomena, and then effectively explain the phenomenon of sports, and promote the development of the discipline of sports sociology.

### 2. Dimensional analysis of field theory

# 2.1 Field

In Bourdieu's view, field is an objective network or configuration formed by various positions in a crisscross society. Analyzing social structure or social relations from the field level is a breakthrough in Marxist sociological theory. Of course, Bourdieu inherited the relationship of Marxist connections. Work is a network of interrelationships of various actors in a specific space. At the same time, the field is developed on the basis of social practice, which is the same as Marxism that "social life is practical in nature". Although the concept of "field" was developed by social students, it was also applied to the analysis of sports phenomena by Bourdieu and derived the concept of "field of sports." The space for various sports exists objectively and has a certain degree of relative independence. For example, sports such as football, basketball, and volleyball have their specific social positions. Between the practice of sports and the social space, there is a certain degree of independence kind of isomorphism correspondence. Just like this, people in different sports must have different social spatial significance when they are engaged in that sports[2]. Compared with other sports in China, the crowd in the football field has a clear bias in its sociological significance.

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#### 2.2 Capital

In the field, struggle, competition, power, etc. are flooded, and capital is the key factor that determines the outcome of the struggle. In other words, the participants in the field compete with the capital in their hands and benefit from it. Of course, in Bourdieu's view, capital does not specifically refer to money, but a specific form. It must be understood that the field is a field for fighting to control the valued resources. If you want to benefit, you cannot achieve it by money alone. Therefore, the capital in the field includes economic capital, cultural capital, social capital and symbolic capital. In the stadium domain, various capitals may become the core content of competition among participants. It is natural to use capital to analyze various phenomena in sports sociology. In the social space structure, the relationship between people is to some extent a competitive relationship. Similar to various sports competitions, competition runs through it, and if athletes want to win, their physical capital is particularly important. Therefore, Bourdieu believes that capital refers to the content related to material property, cultural relations, social relations, personal reputation and fame, etc., as well as the interaction and mutual involvement of personal lives and individuals. Introducing the concept of "capital" into the stadium domain and making it the core prop of the stadium domain analysis has become an important choice for many scholars to carry out sports sociological research.

#### 2.3 Habits

In the social space structure, every participant has a self-recognition of his or her position in the social space. Bourdieu regards "habituation" as an important tool to describe the subject of socialization, as a subjective adjustment of the objective position formed by the subject of socialization in the social position of the field. It should be noted that "habituation" is not static, but a tendency system that can be continuously changed, which is not unrelated to the human body and social practice. Therefore, habituation is actually the internalized result of externality. There are two ways to understand Bourdieu's concept of "habituation". First, as a tendentious system, the result comes from organizational behavior, or a state similar to "conventional and customary", through the social practice of the social subject to achieve the internalization of the social structure, and then affect other members of the society. Create a structured social form; second, in the social practice of the social subject, a new social structure will inevitably be produced on the basis of practice, that is to say, the tendency system has the ability to produce social structure. In a sense, habituation is a somatic necessity. People in the social field will inevitably be affected by habituation. Every field has its own habituation, and there is no field without habituation. In fact, habituation can be analyzed through rules, customs, etc. It is precisely the influence of rules and customs similar to "habituation" on members of society, which is internalized in the heart, causing it to produce rationalized actions and externalizing in behavior. Over time, the members of society in the field will form a collective and regular behavior, making it something with symbolic meaning.

# 3. The internal connection between field theory and sports sociology theory

# 3.1 Value promotion of field theory to the development of sports sociology theory

The development of Bourdieu's "field theory" for the sociology of sports is mainly embodied in two dimensions: one is the development of the concept of sports. The definition of the concept of sports is the core content of the basic theoretical research of the sociology of sports. In the academic world, the definition of the concept of sports is usually carried out in a philosophical and logical way. With the development of modern sports, people are increasingly inclined to recognize the concept of modern sports[3]. Bourdieu's definition of the concept of sports is based on the perspective of the development of modern sports. It interprets the concrete sports reality through the three concepts of "field", "capital" and "habituation", highlighting the "practice" and the "practice" of modern sports to the characteristics of "interaction". At the same time, Bourdieu started from when the term "sports" was used, and combed the source of modern sports development, and then derived the concept of "sports products", thus showing the historical map of "sports". Dieu described sports more practically, concretely, and practically, rather than pursuing the completeness of the concept from a logical level. The second is the introduction of the concept of body in the sociology of sports. Modern sports are integrated into competitive sports. Bourdieu's sociology of sports studies focuses on individual sports practice, especially the individual's body. Undoubtedly, the description of the body that people appreciate and the description of the physical relationship between individuals are important contents of the sociology

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of sports. In modern sports, the body itself is a symbolic expression. People's participation in sports has a symbolic meaning. It is a matter of course to introduce the physical dimension into the sociology of sports for research. More importantly, habituation, habituation, capital and field will form a new research orientation and promote the development of sports sociology research.

## 3.2 The value exploration of field theory to the application and development of sports sociology

Bourdieu's field theory mainly includes the three core concepts of "field", "capital" and "habituation". The application development of field theory to the sociology of sports is developed by these three concepts. Domain, "capital" and "habituation" do not exist independently. In the stadium domain, they are interrelated and interact with each other, and they are ultimately attributed to social practice. Bourdieu interprets how social practice in the sociology of sports is carried out by setting up a set of formulas. It can be expressed as "(habit × capital) + field = practice". This formula is an important framework for Bourdieu to observe various phenomena in sports sociology. In the stadium domain, individual sports behavior is a unique "body capital". It is not a concept of physical strength and endurance in the traditional sense, but a holder of power, status, and specific symbols. For example, in sports, some well-known athletes use their own advantages in sports performance to achieve the promotion of personal social status, the abundance of economic capital and even become national heroes[4]. For example, athletes who represent China in international competitions, "physical capital" has risen sharply. As a result, the application of "capital" to the sociological analysis of sports expands the scope and depth of capital's understanding. At the same time, habituation and field also provide new perspectives for the study of sports sociology, especially in the analysis of the consumption of sports products of different social classes. The affluent class tends to choose sports with low frequency of physical contact, such as golf, tennis, etc., medium classes and low-income groups tend to have high frequency of physical contact and aggressive items, such as basketball and football. It can be seen that, unlike Marxism in eliminating social strata, Bourdieu's sociological research of sports mainly reveals the social behavior of different social strata.

# 4. Exploration of the research paradigm of sports sociology

The ontology theory of the discipline is the basic theory of the development of the discipline, and it is the answer to the fundamental questions about the discipline "what, why and how to do it". In the basic theoretical research on the sociology of sports, the objectivists believe that society is generated and developed in a logical structure, and this logical structure transcends the consciousness of members of the society[5]. Then, it is important to the various phenomena in the sociology of sports. Analysis should be based on the logical structure analysis model; subjectivists believe that the generation and development of the theory of sports sociology comes from the social subject's understanding and interpretation of various phenomena in sports sociology. Then, when constructing the theory of sports sociology, attention should be paid the power of the social subject. Undoubtedly, both of these are reasonable, but there are inevitably shortcomings. Bourdieu's "field theory" successfully circumvents the gap between the two. He proposes to put aside "worldly representations, first construct various objective structures... and then introduce various direct experiences of the actors. In order to reveal the various perceptions and evaluations that construct its actions from within". Constructing various objective structures is to affirm the practice of objectivism, while introducing the direct experience of the actors is to admire subjectivism. At present, an important deviation in the research of Chinese sports sociology is that it pays too much attention to empirical quantitative research and puts sports sociology under a structural-functional research system, while ignoring the humanities embedded in sports sociology factors, we must see that society is composed of individuals, and the intuitive feelings of social subjects for various sports phenomena obviously cannot be ignored. Therefore, the introduction of Bourdieu's "field theory" in the study of Chinese sports sociology is to realize the "objectivity, positivity, accuracy, and regularity" of objectivism through concepts such as "field", "capital" and "habituation". The superposition of "humanity, history, sociality, and reality" of subjectivism pays attention to both logic and social reality.

# 5. Conclusion

Putting sports in the context of social culture, you will find that its generation involves many elements of the development of all levels of society, such as politics, economy, etc., and is intertwined with other things to form a huge and complex collection. For the study of sports sociology, quantitative

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analysis or qualitative analysis cannot be used alone, otherwise it will lead to theoretical defects. Bourdieu's "field theory" analyzes sports behavior from the dimensions of "field", "capital" and "habituation", and finally boils down to practice, providing a new perspective for exploring the research paradigm of sports sociology. Of course, Bourdieu's "field theory" also has limitations, but there is no doubt that it provides a very important methodology for the development of sports sociological research, which is convenient for analyzing the relationship between social stratification and sports. Observing various sports phenomena provides a macro perspective.

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