

Відгук офіційного опонента

д.е.н., професора, професора кафедри економічної кібернетики
Національного технічного університету України «Київський політехнічний
інститут імені Ігоря Сікорського»

ІЛЯШ Ольги Ігорівни

на дисертаційну роботу аспіранта кафедри менеджменту імені професора Л.І.
Михайлової **Лі Цункень (Li Zongkeng)** на тему «Management of socio-
economic development of the southwestern provinces of China» («Управління
соціально-економічним розвитком південно-західних провінцій Китаю»),
поданої на здобуття ступеня доктора філософії з галузі знань 07-управління
та адміністрування за спеціальністю 073 - «Менеджмент»

Relevance of the research topic

Under the influence of European strategies for rural development and revitalization, significant progress has been made in various economic and social aspects of the ethnic regions in southwest China. However, with the increase in the level of interregional economic and social development, a number of problems arose, first of all, with regard to the exacerbation of disparities in intraregional development. The striking urban-rural gap in the ethnic regions of southwest China has significantly hindered the overall improvement in the quality of development in these provinces. Therefore, solving the problem of unbalanced economic and social development in the regional context is a priority for the ethnic regions of southwest China.

The problem is particularly complex due to the fact that the southwestern ethnic regions belong to the national poverty areas, and in combination with their special geographical environmental factors and weak economic base, as well as differences in the implementation of policies in the ethnic regions, the gap in the level of regional development between provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities is relatively large, which is mainly reflected in the differences in the development of cities and villages, as well as in the unbalanced and insufficient

development of the economy, society, ecology and livelihoods of people in the areas where ethnic minorities live.

This dissertation research focuses on the study of differences in economic, social, and environmental aspects between urban and rural areas in the ethnic regions of Southwest China through theoretical and empirical analysis. This determines the high degree of relevance and timeliness of Li Zongkeng's dissertation topic selection.

Connection of work with scientific programs, plans, topics. The dissertation research was carried out within the framework of the topic "Development of management in the conditions of international integration processes" 2019-2023 (state registration number 0119U001336), which corresponds to the thematic plan of research works of the Sumy National Agrarian University (Ukraine), where the author investigated measures to overcome socio-economic inequality in areas where ethnic minorities live in Southwest China; as well as within the framework of personal research projects "Improving Basic Research Abilities for Young and Middle-aged Teachers" at Guangxi University (022KY0682) and the Special Project "14th Five-Year Plan" of Guangxi University Education (2022ZJY2695).

The scientific and practical significance of the dissertation. This paper comprehensively examines the spatio-temporal characteristics of unbalanced economic and social development within ethnic regions in Southwest China from a meso perspective. This approach contributes to the continuous promotion of coordinated and sustainable development among China's regions at a practical level.

1. This research facilitates the understanding of the current state of unbalanced economic and social development in the ethnic regions of Southwest China. It conducts a dynamic measurement study covering four dimensions:

economic, social, environmental and livelihood, to assess the imbalance between urban and rural areas. It also analyzes the development variability within ethnic regions, providing empirical evidence to support the key strategy of building a new development pattern and promoting high-quality development in these areas.

2. *This study promotes the coordinated development of economic and social aspects within the ethnic regions of Southwest China.* By combining qualitative and quantitative research, it comprehensively captures the multidimensional and multi-level characteristics of economic and social development in these regions. As a result, it delves deeply into the influencing factors that affect development levels and disparities, and establishes an evaluation framework that encompasses sustainable economic development, harmonious and coordinated social development, enhanced ecological value, and inclusive livelihood development. Through cross-cutting discussions, it effectively identifies the interplay between dimensions and the linkages of influencing factors within each region, shedding light on the relationship between the quantity and quality of economic and social development, as well as inter-regional coordination.

Completeness of presentation of the dissertation material in scientific publications

During the period of study, the author have prepared 1 computer software copyright, 10 scientific papers: (4 conference papers, 3 articles published in journals indexed in Scopus, 3 article in journals included in the list of scientific professional publications of Ukraine assigned category "B").

The main provisions and results of the dissertation research were made public by the author are following: International scientific conference "Modern management: tendencies, problems and perspectives of development" (Dnipro,

Ukraine: 2020.04; 2020.11; 2022.04) and Problems of Effective Management of State. Materials of Inter. Sc. Conference (Tbilisi, Georgia, 2020.11).

The degree of validity of the scientific propositions formulated in the dissertation

Dissertation research is an independent scientific work of the author. Scientific results, conclusions and proposals submitted for defense were obtained by the author personally.

The thesis highlights the purpose of the research - the development of theoretical and practical principles for ensuring the management of balanced development of the southwestern provinces of China, taking into account the needs and characteristics of ethnic minorities.

The purpose of this paper is to study the socio-economic inequality in the ethnic regions of southwest China. Specifically, it aims to analyze the unbalanced characteristics, make a comprehensive evaluation, and explore the influencing factors in four dimensions: economic development, social construction, ecological civilization, and people's well-being in the ethnic regions of southwest China over time and space. The study mainly focuses on the unbalanced development situation in the southwest ethnic regions from two major perspectives: urban and rural. It also considers the economic, social, environmental and livelihood aspects. Finally, from the perspective of meso-regional development, the paper puts forward research recommendations to facilitate the coordinated regional development of ethnic areas in Southwest China. The intention is to address the theoretical, methodological and practical foundations, laws, principles, causes, trends and contradictions related to the comprehensive management of unbalanced economic and social development in the ethnic regions of Southwest China.

Based on the policy requirements and objectives of China's rural revitalization strategy and the "One Belt, One Road" development strategy, this research undertakes an evaluation of the current economic and social development status within the ethnic regions of southwest China. It assesses the disparities in economic and social development within these regions across two strata: urban and rural, and evaluates these disparities through the lens of four key dimensions: economic, social, ecological, and livelihood. The study is driven by the pursuit of five primary objectives:

1. *To elucidate the previous literature and relevant theories on the economic and social development imbalance in the ethnic regions of Southwest China.* This will lay the theoretical foundation for empirical analysis and countermeasure research in this study.

2. *To use Tsinghua University's balanced development index system to examine the current development status and unbalanced characteristics of the economy, society, ecology, and people's livelihood in the ethnic regions of Southwest China.* This analysis not only provides evidence for development policy research in these regions, but also serves as a reference for measuring the unbalanced characteristics of economic and social development in the region.

3. *To use geographical and temporal weighted regression (GTWR) to investigate the factors influencing the unbalanced economic and social development in the ethnic regions of Southwest China.* This will enhance the understanding of regional economic and social development imbalance in China and provide empirical cases specific to the ethnic regions in the southwest.

4. *To apply the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method, combining qualitative and quantitative research approaches, to statistically analyze the level and quality of economic and social development in the ethnic regions of southwest China.* This analysis will provide a comprehensive evaluation of economic and social

development while exploring the causes of urban-rural development disparities in these regions. By exploring the reasons for spatial and temporal heterogeneity, a deeper understanding of urban-rural development disparities can be gained.

5. To explore ways and countermeasures to achieve balanced development in economic, social, ecological and livelihood aspects in the ethnic regions of Southwest China. This involves exploring polycentric governance paths guided by key influencing factors in line with polycentric theory and drawing on empirical research on governance of regional economic unbalanced development at home and abroad. In addition, based on sustainable development theory and urban-rural development differences, the study explores the feasibility and applicability of sustainable development countermeasures in ethnic regions of Southwest China. It also aims to summarize and refine experiences and countermeasures to reduce the urban-rural development gap in these regions, thereby enriching the scope of countermeasure research on economic and social development in ethnic regions of Southwest China.

In general, after reading the dissertation and scientific publications, there is reason to state that the applicant managed to solve the task and achieve the goal of the dissertation research. The tasks are correlated with points of scientific novelty, and accordingly, the ways of solving the tasks chosen by the author are original.

The scientific novelty of the obtained results. It includes the deepening of existing theoretical provisions and the development of scientific-practical and methodological recommendations on the problems of economic and social development of the ethnic regions of Southwest China. The scientific results are reliable and, as far as their scientific essence is concerned, can be expressed as follows:

First:

- Developed a conceptual program for eradicating regional disparities in the economic and social development of the southwestern provinces of China in the context of inequality between urban and rural areas, characterized by reasonable coordination of actions of state and local authorities, orderly competition of all economic entities in the region, environmental sustainability, joint prosperity and mutually beneficial results for all parties involved in the development process – the state, enterprises, and the population.

Improved:

- Methodological construction of a complex system for assessing the level of development of urban and rural areas of southwestern ethnic groups based on the entropy weight method by measuring the results of unbalanced development of ethnic regions in southwestern China by the method of fuzzy comprehensive assessment of development in four dimensions - economy, society, ecology and means of the existence of people.

- A theoretical-practical approach to finding ways of development and methods of implementing the strategy of achieving balanced economic and social development in the ethnic regions of Southwest China by focusing on three key aspects: the principles of joint management, the function of collective management and the synergy of development ways, taking into account sustainability in the four dimensions: economic, social, ecological and sources of livelihood.

Further development:

- The theoretical connection between the theory of unbalanced development, the theory of polycentric management and the theory of sustainable development in the ethnic regions of southwest China through the application of the model of uneven regional development, which consists in the analysis and comparison of the measurement model and the model of assessment of the imbalance of regional

development and the construction of a measurement system of unbalanced development in ethnic areas in southwest China.

- Impulses for innovative development and acceleration of building a reliable system for high-quality development, strengthening the economic and demographic capacity of central cities, urban clusters and other economically developed regions, while strengthening the role of other regions in ensuring food security, ecological integrity and border stability.

The structure and content of the dissertation, its completeness and compliance with the established requirements for design

The presented dissertation work of Li Zongkeng has a logical structure, its content fully reveals the topic of scientific research. The primary focus of this dissertation was to identify strategies for implementing coordinated regional development, a long-term endeavor requiring sustained commitment.: adjusting and improving the framework of regional policy based on objective economic principles, using the comparative advantages of each region, promoting the rational course and the effective concentration of various factors, as well as the continuous strengthening of initiatives to promote coordination and development within and outside the provinces. esently, China's economic and social landscape in the new era is chiefly influenced by key principles such as the "Rural Revitalization Strategy," the "One Belt, One Road" Development Strategy, and the "Regional Coordinated and Sustainable Development" National Plan. Drawing inspiration from European strategies for rural development and revitalization, significant advancements have been achieved across various economic and social facets in the ethnic regions of southwest China. However, as interregional economic and social development levels rise, a set of challenges has emerged, particularly concerning the intensification of disparities in intraregional development. The stark urban-rural divide within the

ethnic regions of southwest China has significantly impeded overall developmental progress in these provinces. Therefore, addressing the issue of unbalanced economic and social development within the regional context stands as a top priority for the ethnic regions of southwest China.

The problem is particularly complex due to the fact that the southwestern ethnic regions belong to the national poverty areas, and in combination with their special geographical environmental factors and weak economic base, as well as differences in the implementation of policies in the ethnic regions, the gap in the level of regional development between provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities is relatively large, which is mainly reflected in the differences in the development of cities and villages, as well as in the unbalanced and insufficient development of the economy, society, ecology and livelihoods of people in the areas where ethnic minorities live.

This dissertation research focuses on the study of differences in economic, social, and environmental aspects between urban and rural areas in the ethnic regions of Southwest China through theoretical and empirical analysis. Dissertation research has the following innovative aspects:

- from the point of view of qualitative research - combines qualitative and quantitative research on regional development through an in-depth study of the theoretical logic of unbalanced economic and social development of ethnic regions in southwest China; establishes a new theoretical research basis for understanding the imbalances of regional economic and social development, which meets the requirements of the regional strategy of coordinated development.

- from the point of view of quantitative research - based on Tsinghua University's unbalanced development index system and includes the results of research by scientists in the academic field; creates a more appropriate methodological basis for calculating the index of measuring the level of economic

and social development in the ethnic regions of southwest China, taking into account the actual conditions of these regions.

- in terms of evaluation methodology - develops a new evaluation model of regional economic and social development in ethnic regions of Southwest China based on the use of spatio-temporal regression (GTWR) to facilitate horizontal and vertical comparative analysis of measurement results in provinces and cities each year.

Therefore, conducting a comprehensive examination of the existing disparities in economic and social development across different provinces, urban and rural areas within the southwestern region, and elucidating the factors influencing these inequalities in the ethnic regions of the southwest holds immense theoretical and practical significance. It contributes significantly to the formulation of a strategic policy for the holistic development of ethnic territories in the southwestern region.

The objects of the dissertation research are Chongqing Municipality, Sichuan Province, Yunnan Province, Guizhou Province, Tibet Autonomous Region and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The results of the study highlight representative data on the development of urban and rural areas in six provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) in southwest China over the past 10 years, and also characterize the current state and problems of unbalanced economic and social development of ethnic areas in southwest China through a comprehensive assessment (an empirical study of the imbalance and causes of insufficient economic and social development) and proposals for ways to improve the situation.

The applicant presented the material competently, logically, in English at a high level. The content of the dissertation corresponds to its essence. There is a proper relationship between the sections and subdivisions of the work, all sections

contain figures and tables. Links to informational resources are correct. Conclusions to sections of the dissertation work and general conclusions are logical and confirmed by the results of testing at international and all-Ukrainian scientific and practical conferences, publication in specialized scientific publications of Ukraine and international journals indexed in the scientific and metric database Scopus.

All of the above allows us to ascertain the sufficiency of the validity and reliability of the main provisions, conclusions and recommendations of the dissertation work.

Discussion clauses and comments on the content of the dissertation.

Despite the positive impression from reading the dissertation and the author's publications, one should pay attention to the presence of certain shortcomings and debatable provisions, namely:

1. The analysis of literary sources in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 would be expedient to be carried out according to a certain classification of scientific approaches or taking into account chronology. Also, too much attention is paid to the Marxist approach, instead, the globalization theories of territorial development are not considered.

2. The dissertation proposes a conceptual model of improving the quality of life of ethnic minorities in the southwestern regions of China through the implementation of a long-term strategy of organizational, instrumental, and economic support for the appropriate state policy with the simultaneous modernization of scientific approaches to the functioning of the chain "increasing the quality of life" - "increasing needs" - "economic growth". However, the statement that this planning process is closed is debatable, because the author does not recognize the influence of external environmental factors, such as labor market trends, state regulation of employment, etc.

3. In subsection 3.2 the author notes a number of problems of the ethnic regions of southwestern China, notes individual ways of solving them. In addition, the author emphasizes disparities between urban and rural areas, but does not propose a comprehensive mechanism for eliminating imperfections. In my opinion, it would be appropriate to propose all individual actions in the state development program - the National Action Plan.

4. Finally, in section 3, it would be appropriate to carry out a final calculation of the costs of state and regional budgets and the implementation of the National Action Plan to eliminate disparities in the development of ethnic regions of southwestern China, to conduct simulations and show the costs and benefits, and to prove the feasibility of the proposed measures .

5. The conclusions are general in nature, the statements are too formalized and do not reflect the specific results obtained in the dissertation.

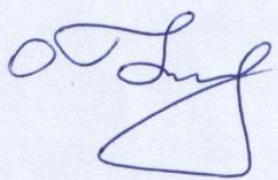
General conclusion

Dissertation work by Li Zongkeng on the topic "Management of socio-economic development of the southwestern provinces of China", which was submitted for defense to the specialized academic council for obtaining the degree of doctor philosophy from the field of knowledge 07 management and administration by specialty 073 management in terms of its relevance, scientific and theoretical level, main results of validity, main provisions and results published in professional publications, novelty of the setting and practical significance meets the requirements of the order of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Ukraine No. 40 of January 12, 2017 of the year "On the approval of the requirements for the preparation of the dissertation" and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated January 12, 2022 No. 44 "On the approval of the Procedure for awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and the cancellation of the decision of

the one-time specialized academic council of the institution of higher education, scientific institution on awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy" from changes introduced in accordance with Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 341 dated 03.21.2022

Офіційний опонент:
професор кафедри економічної кібернетики,
Національний технічний університет України
«Київський політехнічний інститут імені Ігоря Сікорського»
д.е.н., професор

Ольга ІЛІЯШ



Підпис завіряється

Ваший секретар
КПІ імені Ігоря Сікорського
Людмила Хонько

