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19/SMS09/006

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

PHILOSOPHY

**ASSIGNMENT**

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of chapter 8 of the book HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE.

**PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCES (AND APPLIED SCIENCE)**

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, the people of Europe started trusting the scientists because of their recorded or known success so far. This was a good response to science and was caused by a change in time explains why science continued to grow since then. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivity grew could be known as a period of renaissance, and why is that? Because people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage.

The classical period of romantism; romantism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced where regarded as classical. Bertrand Russell puts this more succinctly when he said “the period of history which is commonly called ‘modern’ has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways.

Positivity rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. First of these problems is observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error.

**WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE?**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Disciplines includes; sociology, psychology, economics etc. we have some philosophers who decided to study how society works such as ST. Augustine and the 14th-century historian Ibn Khaldun, down to Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Emile Durkheim and lots of others.

Social sciences seek to use the method of science in doing things, taking humans as point of study. Their objectives include;

1. Understanding humans in both historical and cultural contexts.
2. Predicting human behaviour according to their pattern of interaction.
3. Grooming and influencing human behaviour towards a desirable context.
4. Manipulating and discovering the laws governing human behaviour.
5. Advancing beyond arm chair philosophy, etc.

**THE PROBLEM OF REASONS AND CAUSES**

To understand this problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a causal or correlational correction between an event and its cause.

**But first what does the principle of cause and effect mean?**

Although explication of casualty goes back to David Hume, Ernest Nagel presents Hume’s exposition of the notion of causation in a bullet form which is endearing to our analysis here. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must;

1. Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must occur;
2. Be spatially contiguous
3. Be temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause etc.

Francis Offor explains this point in the following words:

The principle of cause and effect states that for every event in the universe, there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. Put differently, the principle states that for every event ‘B’ in the universe, there is always a cause ‘A’, SUCH THAT ‘B’ can always be explained by reference to the activities of the event ‘A’. This is the principle that underlies the method of explanation in science.

**The problem of human person as object of study in social sciences**

Another problem with the project of social sciences is that, according to Max Weber, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction.

Some application will even force the users to update it, causing the user to spend data on the update as data is the currency of the internet nowadays. The law of demand and supply does not seem to work here as consumers have no choice. Now, if a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we continue to call it scientific laws of economics?