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**QUESTION**

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of Chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, *History and Philosophy of Science: A Brief Survey.* Ibadan Hope Publications. Pages 86-95.

**Answer**

The success of natural science on the life of the people of Europe then was so enormous that they started trusting the words of the scientists and sought opinion on matters not related to science. This positive response happened as a result of a change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to an issue is called Positivism from then on. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called a renaissance period because it marked a period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time. The words of the Pope was the final authority on any matter. Diseases as at that time, were direct consequence of sin and idolatry, so the church waged several wars to exterminate the heathens. The community at that time saw this as a big threat to human happiness and their survival. So they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusion just as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle used to do. In arts and music were hidden Greek worldviews too. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Bertrand Russell puts this more succinctly when he said that, “the period of history which is commonly called “modern” has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in many ways. Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. Until a French social philosopher thought otherwise. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. Positivism, modelled on empirical sciences which provides it with a methodology, declares false, all propositions that could not be solved or verified by experience. Social science employed the method of science in investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. However the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch.

To understand the problem with social sciences better, one has to understand that one of the essential features of science is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause . T But the principle of cause and effect applies. Francis Offor explains the principle of cause and effect in every event in the universe and its conditions. He further assert that, “by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents’. One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. Some scholars have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as a motive, drive or intent and not cause while there are some scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes.

According to Max Weber, another problem with the project of social science is that, methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that the object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentiment features that come into play in his action or reaction. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behavior with which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. It has been observed that even by economists themselves the laws of dsemand and supply or the market forces do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time.

Now, if a supposed scientific law is neither absolute nor hold quite often, should we continue to call it scientific laws of economics?