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**COURSE TITLE : HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**ASSIGNMENT TITLE:REVIEW;CHAPTER 8**

**CHAPTER 8: Philosophy of social sciences(And applied sciences).**

The positive response to science happened as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and this explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue is called positivism from then on. The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. Romanticism cane about due to sudden changes in the community which was seen as a big threat to human happiness and survival and started infiltrating literature with the benefits of arriving at justified conclusion like socrates, plato and Aristotle used to do.

Romanticism gave rise to humanarism and maturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Bertrand Russel 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. Of these, two are the most important: the diminishing authority of the church, and the increasing authority of science “. Discipline, intellectual, moral and political, was associated in the minds of men of the Renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government.

August Comte came along and thought otherwise concerning the matter of science. He was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular pattern much like material things and this behaviour can be studied and somewhat accurate predictions made. This is the beginning of social sciences especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as the father of social sciences and sociology in general. Positivism rejects theoretical speculations that are not based on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. There are a lot of problems with the conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise in which they are observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error and they include; observations are concept-laden, hypothesis-laden, theory-laden, value-laden, interest-laden and are laden with culture-specific ontologies.

Social science can be defined as 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 here include sociology, economics, political science etc. To understand the problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanations is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause. Explication of causality goes back to David Hume, Earnest Nagel presenting Hume's exposition of notion of causation in a bullet form which is endearing to some analysis here. According to this account, for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must;

* Have a constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur.
* Be spatially contagious, that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by a change of event that are spatially linked .
* Be temporarily related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause.
* Have an asymmetrical relation in that the occurrence of the alleged cause must be actual event, which brings about the effect, such that the effect must not be part of the original conditions that are necessary and sufficient for its own occurrence.

Francis Ofor defined the points saying that the principle of cause and effect states that for every event in the universe, there’s a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. He also says that, “by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of action involving human agents". He defined it clearer by using an explanation of a man who punched his friend because he was angry. The explanation pretends reason and cause can be substituted for one another without any loss of meaning. Robin Collingwood, a scholar, still insist that reasons can be treated as causes. He argues that reasons are not only causes but they are ultimate casual power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be too naive for us.