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COURSE TITTLE: HISTORY AND PHYLOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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 Publcations. pages 86-95.

It was the success recorded in natural Science ,in the eighteenth and nineteenth century which was so enormous on the social and intellectual life that led to the trust of the then European people who were scientists and they sought their opinion on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic .

Positivism refers to the positive response to science that happen as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time and the belief in science or application of science to any issue.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 revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was prior to this time.

However,The intellectual community at the time saw this as a big threat to human happiness and survival .So they started infiltrating literature with the benefits of using reason to arrive at justified conclusions just as socrates , Plato and Aristotle used to.This became know 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 .The effect of that manoeuvring was overwhelming .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.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 . These include the facts that;

1. Observations are concept-laden
2. Observations are hypothesis-laden
3. Observation are theory-laden
4. Observations are value-laden
5. Observations are interest-laden
6. Observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies .

**What is social Science?**

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior,interaction and manifestation ,either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group; including the institutions ,norms and mores such interactions created.Disciplines in the Social sciences include:sociology,psychology,economics, political science, archeology,anthropology .

However, the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unchangeable due to methodological mismatch .In other words ,there exist an incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and its society

**The problem of reason and causes**

To understand this problem, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an effect and its cause ,for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must ;have a invariable or constant relation ,be spatially contagious ,be temporally related ,have an asymmetrical relation.Another problem is with the project of social science is that,according to max weber,methodology of science because is man , a rational being with freewill ,desires,emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction .

All these factors undermine the nation of predictability of behaviour which natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws .Take for instance the law of demand and supply in economics which predicts that human as a rational being will buy less when the price is less is high and less when the price is high.