**Name: Denzel Metuh**

**Matric No: 19/law01/145**

**Course: History and philosophy of science**

**Summary of Chapter 8**

Chapter 8 talks about a large amount of success recorded in natural science in the 18th century and 19th century which gained the trust of the people in Europe that they started consulting scientist on matters unrelated to science such as law and forensic evidence. The positive response on science happened as a result of change in the socio-cultural milieu of the time which is often known as the renaissance period and enlightment period. It was addressed as the renaissance period as it was the time where people started a revolution to their Greek heritage of reasoning in public concern and not the dictate of religion that was prior to this time whereby the words of the pope was supreme and final authority. This was an era where people were burned at stake because they would be found guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. The intellectual community saw this as a threat to human happiness so they took due measures and infiltrated and found out about using reason to arrive at justified conclusion. This period was known as classical and romanticism period and it gave birth to humanism and naturalism. Betrand Russel expands to this as he indicated that the period of history which Is called modern has a mental outlook which differs from the medieval period in many ways.

From philosophical approach to issues scientific approach to things came along but science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was the only material believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. This was so until August Comte, a social philosopher who was regarded as the father of sociology came along and thought otherwise. He believed the society behaves in a regular pattern such as material things and can be studied and predicted. This was the beginning of social sciences.

Positivism is a philosophical theory stating that certain knowledge is based on natural phenomena and their properties and relations. This it is not based on theoretical hypothesis but on knowledge through facts and experience. The information is derived from sensory experience, interpreted through reason and logic, and forms the exclusive source of all certain knowledge.

It is provided with a methodology through empirical science, a statement that cannot be verified, proven or solved by experience is seen to be false in positivism. It is faced with various problem which consider its knowledge ideal. Observation is seen to be one of the top problems and they are observations of concept-laden, hypothesis-laden, Theory-Laden, value-Laden, interest-Laden and laden with culture specific ontologies.

Social sciences tries to employ the method of science in investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as the objective of study and these are: Influencing human behaviour, grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and Chanel long collective effort towards development, understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development or change, discovering and manipulating if possible, the laws governing most of human behaviour.

The philosophy of social science is the study of the logic, methods, and foundations of social sciences such as psychology, economics, and political science. Philosophers of social science are concerned with the differences and similarities between the social and the natural science, causal relationships between social phenomena, the possible existence of social laws, and the ontological significance of structure and agency. The major social sciences are Anthropology, Archaeology, Economics, Geography, History, Linguistics, Politics, Psychology and Sociology.

The social sciences, like the physical or biological sciences, are intellectual subjects, directed primarily toward understanding, rather than action. It would of course be a curious kind of “understanding” that had no implications for action, and this is perhaps especially true for the social sciences. The social sciences are full of major problems we’re practically all very major problems having to do with humans that are very non-trivial to solve.

The cause and effect must be: temporally related such that the cause precedes the effect in time just as the effect must follow continuously from the cause or be spatially contiguously, that is, the two events must occur in approximately the same location or at least be related by chain of events that are spatially linked or have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs, the effect must also occur.

In other words, many scholars have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as motive, drive or intent and not cause. Although, there are some scholars who insist that reasons can be treated as causes. Also, reasons are not only causes but they are the ultimate casual power which lies in human and that ascribing casual power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world may be too naïve of us.

According to economists, laws do not hold all the time since man does not behave rationally all the time, due to this capitalist have been able to manipulate consumer behaviour to the point it is doubtful if the laws no longer hold. That is people tend to buy things of necessity for betterment, but were the problem lies is the forcing of users to update this gadgets.