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Course: Philosophy of Science

Date: April, 2020

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Chapter 8 Summary Review of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah Balogun, History and Philosophy Science. A Brief Survey on Philosophy of Social Sciences and Applied Sciences.

It was recorded that in the eighteenth and nineteenth century the then Europeans were said to have encountered a kind of change in their socio-cultural background due to the success recorded in natural science and as a result the then Europeans began to trust the words of scientists and their researches and sought their opinion on other discipline unrelated to science. however, This positive response to science happened as a result to the change in the social-cultural milieu in that era, and it further explains the theory of positivism as an application of science to any issue. and the period in which it emancipated is known as the renaissance period, this was the period of revolution of the Greeks returning to their heritage of using reason in matter of public concern and not to dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time which was known to be the aeon period which was the dark age the period when the church was in control of Europe whatever the pope says is final in the whole of Europe.it became a threat to the happiness and survival of humans so they began to infiltrate literature with some justification as other scholars like Socrates and the likes have done. and gave rise to the classical period of Romanticism, according to Russell "the period of history which is commonly called modern has a mental outlook which differs from that of the medieval period in so many ways of which there are two basic important things, the declining authority of the church and the increasing authority of science" and as a result brought about individualism up to the point of anarchy.

Scientific ways of doing things was as a result of the application of philosophical approach to issues, but hence science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was only material and non-living things that was believed not to behave in a normal way and also rationally but this was highly argued by the father of social philosophy August Comte which stood on the fact that human society behaves the same like material that they can be highly

predicted this was now the beginning of social sciences and sociology. Positivism rejects any speculations that does base on facts of experience as a means of obtaining knowledge. However not withstanding the shortcomings and problems of positivism lets us explicate on the idea of social science it birthed.

Social Science

Social science can be said to be an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interactions and manifestations, either as an individual in the society or collectively as a group, Including institutions. the history of the discipline dates back to the early philosophers who wanted to study how the society works such as:St.Augustine and the 14th century historian ibn khaldun,down to karl marx, thomas hobbes however august comte is regarded as the father of social science. Social science from its inception have its aims and objectives such as:

___ To Understand humans in both historical and cultural development context and factors responsible for such development, thus it also tries to predict human behaviour based on the pattern of their interaction, social norms and other factors that are likely to influence human behaviour.however

___ It also Influences human behaviour grooming it towards a socially desirable conduct and channeling collective effort towards development, also Discover and manipulate if possible the laws governing most of human behaviour and Advancing beyond armchair philosophy the knowledge about the characteristic temperament associated behaviour of a person or group or that exhibited by those in an activity. Now the philosophy of social science arouse out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to the meteorological mismatch and contradiction. Where by human can not be compared to a material because material can be predicted while a man cannot be predicted because it is a rational being.

___ Moreso this chapter further stretch to examine “the problem of reason and causes”. To understand this problem with social sciences there's a need to understand that one of the essential and important features of science and its explanation is to bring to us a causal or correlative connection between an event and its cause and there it sheds light on the principle of cause and effect. According to an account given in this chapter for anything to be the cause of another the cause and effect must: Have an invariable or constant relation in the sense that whenever the alleged cause occurs the effect must also occur, also to be spatially contiguous that is two event must occur in approximately the same location or the at least be related by chain of event, be temporally related as such that a cause precedes the effect in time, and to have an asymmetrical relations in the occurrence of the alleged cause 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 occurrence.

___ Hence it was further asserted that by employing the scientific method in social investigations, social science now seek to explain the cause of actions involving human agents, to explain this with an instance where, Mr A makes this statement upon seeing some of his friend who demanded to know why he punched one of them at the gym the man says “ I punched him at the face because i was angry” now everyone will agree that was the reason why he punched his friend was because, he was angry, one can then conclude that anger could be the reas or the cause of the man's action, we can then draw a line between reason and cause, its arugable to say that the word 'reason' can be substituted for 'cause'

without any loss of meaning according to Nagel when applied to human activities that the reason the man punched his friend could it be because of mere anger or that his brain activated the muscle of his arm to throw a punch?.

some people also argued that reasons are not causes but rather they are motives and intent an example of which is a man going to the pharmacy to purchase chloroquine for his family which we can say that was his motive of going to the pharmacy and going by substitution thesis we can regard his motive as the cause of him going to the pharmacy. and moreover upon him getting to the pharmacy store he couldn't find chloroquine and he decides to buy Artequin. is it then right to say that the cause which initially was to buy chloroquine changed after the effect had taken place? Must philosophers have argued including Comte that it's better to leave reason as motive, drive, or intent and not cause some philosophers stand strongly on the belief that reason is not only causes but they are ultimate causal power which lies in human and that ascribing causal power to inanimate things and objects in the physical world maybe too naive of us. (Robin Collingwood)

However, in conclusion the problem of human person as object of study in the social sciences of which Max Weber's methodology of science can't be applicable to man, because the object of study here is man and man is said to be a rational being with free will, emotions, and desires and some other features that reflect in his actions or reaction. this however undermines the predictability of human behaviour with which natural science deduce their laws. an instance given here is, the law of demand and supply in economics where by it is said the higher the demand, the higher the price. but the higher the supply the lower the price. however as observed by economists these laws are not affirmative always since man does not behave rationally all the time. just as in recent times some capitalists have been able to manipulate human behaviour to the point that these laws become doubtful. hence the law of demand and supply can't be applicable at all times because some consumers have no choice and some producers have made some things necessary in as much as you won't be able to use a product if you don't do some necessary things a producer has recommended and this further makes it arguable for a deteriorating scientific law which is not absolute nor efficient be regarded as being scientific or not just as in the case of economics.