

Models.

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INTRODUCTION

Models are very important tools used in modern science. This is because it helps one to gain a perfect understanding of the scientific developments. Models are also instruments which makes it possible for easy understanding, recognizing and developing principles.

We are going to discuss Models in detail, as follows.

MEANING OF MODELS.

Models are representational category used to capture the universe or aspects of the universe, nature and reality. Models represent phenomenon or theories. For instance the mathematical formula "Force = Mass \times Acceleration ($F = MA$)" is used to represent all events in the universe where force is applied.

Models perform basically two fundamentally different representational functions

1. A model can be a representation of selected part of the world, depending on the nature of the phenomenon.
2. A model can also represent a theory in the sense that it interprets the law and axioms of the theory.

MODELS AS REPRESENTATIONAL CATEGORIES.

This would be explained under two fundamental functions.

1. Models represent Theories.
2. Model represent Object of reality.

Models as Theories.

Theories are statements about aspects of the world that have undergone series of experimentation in various places and still proves itself to be true.

A Model Theory is a theory that have been generally accepted and has proven indisputable such that it stands out as standard for formulating and enacting new theories. Hence a theory becomes a model if it can be used to interpret another theory as well as bring out the solutions and consequences.

Models as Representation of Objects of reality.

Models also represents objects in the physical world. However, there are some objects that as a representation, they capture essential features of a system or phenomenon, while abstracting away irrelevant details. They can be mathematical, conceptual

or physical representation. An issue here is how can models represent things which are not empirical, that is things which are not observable.

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

There are two philosophical schools of thought that propose what model should represent.

Empiricism

Realism.

THE VIEWS OF EMPIRICISM.

Empiricism is a philosophical school of thought that claim that knowledge can only be derived from the senses. They argue ^{that models} should represent only things that the senses can perceive. Hence whatever the five senses are not able to observe should not be represented by models. Empiricist disregard non empirical realities.

THE VIEW POINT OF REALISM.

Realist argue that non-empirical realities should also be represented by models. Since ~~real~~ models represent ~~real~~ aspect of the universe, they argue

that models should provide insight into the structures of reality even if they are idealized or simplified representation.

LINGUISTICS AND NON-LINGUISTIC MODELS.

Linguistic models deals with the use of language to capture or represent aspects of realities in the human world. Examples of such models are: Mathematical Models.

Non linguistic models deals with the use of objects to represent realities. It is aimed at reducing the excessive use of language. Examples are picture sketches.

THE CRISIS WITH REPRESENTATIONAL STYLE OF MODEL.

The crisis with representational style deals with whether a model should represent an object in its exactitude or not? That is, what is the best way to modelize an object. Must a model be an exact representation of what it represents? This is the problem of exactitude and Similitude.

EXACTITUDE:

Those in this group are of the opinion that models

should be ~~the~~ exactly the same with what it represents. This poses a problem; if models are exactly the same with the object it represents, what then make a model a model different from the other? How can model be identified between ~~the~~ it and the true object. Exactitude of models makes model to loose its status as model.

SIMILITUDE.

This group propose that models should not be exact the same but should be similar to the object they are representing. This also has its own problem, which is "How similar should a model be to the object it is representing such that it does not become exactly the same with the object ^{and} can still be identified as a model of that object and not something else.

This summarises the Crisis of representational models.

IMPORTANCE OF MODELS.

Some of the importance of models include.

1. Models makes understanding easier and faster.
2. It summarises and reduces the use of words in

Language.

3. Models makes it easier to identify a thing.
4. Models also enables serve as framework for hypothesis.
5. Models facilitate Communication and education.

Conclusion.

Models