

Josiah Kim

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Tano

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Short Paper 3

Paul Feyerabend uses Galileo's account of scientific discovery to make an argument for his methodological anarchism. He uses the scientific method to show that Galileo's scientific discoveries were not scientific at all. Feyerabend argues that "if an account of method and progress cannot even make sense of Galileo's innovations, then it is not much of an account of science" (Chalmers 151).

In Feyerabend's case, we can see that he characterizes Galileo's discovery as the epitome of scientific discovery within the philosophy of science. Therefore, proving this event to be unscientific would surely be a fundamental refute to any philosopher of science claiming that Galileo's discovery is scientific. To take it even further, Feyerabend uses Galileo's cases in his broader claim to establish that science is not as special as other philosophers of science claim because "there is no such [scientific] method and... science does not possess features that render it necessarily superior to other forms of knowledge" (Chalmers 150).

At first glance, it might seem that Feyerabend is sinical towards science; however, that is not the case. He aims to distinguish modern science from science "back then." "Great scientists are opportunistic and creative" (PGS 111). Modern science, particularly the scientific method, restricts scientist from this creativity.

Feyerabend coins the term, "anything goes," which is the only rule that "will not impede imagination and progress" (PGS 111). He claims that all ideologies are fairytales and science is

nothing but an ideology (Feyerabend 2). However, this ideology is seemingly exempt from criticism in society which is a huge issue in Feyerabend's eyes. To him, the rigidity of science is something of a tyranny because it claims a "truth" that is reigns without checks and balances (Feyerabend 2). Science has no special access to objective knowledge – it is equivalent to any other ideology and should be subject to the same criticisms.

Feyerabend's methodological anarchism is convincing. Galileo did not follow a specific "scientific method" and is still considered a renowned scientist with revolutionary scientific discoveries. Therefore, there is no reason to restrict scientists with a scientific method. By denouncing a scientific method, Feyerabend advocates for intellectual freedom which is pleasing as a student. This freedom can be conveyed through the Universal Teaching Method developed by Jean-Joseph Jacotot. By removing structure from the learning process, a child is able to learn with freedom and creativity. We are engulfed in a world of ideologies and science is one of them – it does not have a privileged access to knowledge.