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Descriptive Imaginary Evolution and the Functions of Conflict in the Science and Culture of Knowledge Society

Abstract: Knowledge society represents a type of society in which scientifically based knowledge influences a large diversity of domestic life aspects. Highly encouraged by the emergence of information society, knowledge society becomes nowadays an increasingly present reality, having as one of the main features the strong relation between science and culture. Therefore, changes in the plan of continuously evolving scientific representations could have significant cultural impact in knowledge society. We will try to investigate the cultural influence of radical changes in the evolution of scientific representations, using the concept of descriptive imaginary. As an example of “scientific conflict” with important cultural consequences on long term, we will analyze the dispute between Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr regarding the indeterministic character of quantum reality. Although such a dispute took place in a historical period in which knowledge society was not at all so real as it is today, our endeavor will try to emphasize the positive role of conflict in science and the contrast between such a function and the tensions created at the cultural level, namely in philosophy, by the new perspective on reality raised by such disputes, which are today even more numerous than in the past.

Keywords: aesthetics, artistic imaginary, knowledge society, postmodernism