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Descriptive Imaginary Mutations that Made Possible the Birth of Modern Natural Sciences*

Abstract: The birth of modern natural sciences was a complex process, still able to heat debates among philosophers and historians of science as regards its true causes and stages. While discussing this issue, the present paper intends to analyze briefly some of the most important mutations that took place at the level of descriptive imaginary and favored the rise of the new methodological attitude of scientists towards natural phenomena. The starting point of our endeavor will be the famous controversy between Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn regarding the nature of scientific progress, but we will be interested mainly in a better understanding of the specific role played by scientific imagination in the process of developing two very different types of scientific discourse about nature: the Aristotelian one and the Galilean one. Our aim will be in this regard that of emphasizing the unique features of the comparison between the two mentioned authors, in order to clarify whether or not the history of Modern Physics has an asymmetrical character which should be taken into consideration in any philosophical investigation of scientific progress.

Keywords: scientific imagination, scientific revolution, scientific knowledge

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