

Horia-Costin CHIRIAC

"Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi (Romania)

Scientific Progress in Terms of Descriptive Imaginary Evolution¹

Abstract: The present paper aims to underline the use of imaginative faculty within the process of acquiring scientific knowledge, especially in the case of the natural sciences. Moreover, we are interested to investigate the way in which scientific progress takes place. Such a problem was one of wide interest for a quite long time, a problem that triggered the development of some of the most influential theories in the philosophy of science. Our proposal involves the introduction of a new concept, the descriptive imaginary, which plays an important part in our effort to clarify the specific use of the imaginative faculty within the development of new scientific theories. We will try to develop a pragmatic theory about scientific progress able to combine a moderate fictionalist point of view about the genesis of scientific representations with the idea that scientific progress is happening in terms of progressive grasping of the features of nature.

Keywords: descriptive imaginary, scientific representation, scientific progress

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