

**NAIVE REALISM** *Science is based on a new positive knowledge.*

**1. This knowledge is a photograph of reality.**

- \* only one true picture of reality*
- \* scientist is a passive recipient*

**2. One-to-one correspondence.**

- \* knowledge = reality = truth*
- \* correspondence is literal*

**3. Objective.**

- \* the search is for objective truth which is ahistorical and acultural*
- \* to be objective it must be freed from feelings and values*
- \* it must also be done by specialist individuals unaffected by community dynamics, or by personal and historical biases*
- \* sense of absolutes*

#### **4. Begin with doubt.**

- \* to be objective we must begin with doubt, not faith***
- \* everything must be reexamined***

#### **5. Built on empiricism and reason:**

- \* reality is only what the senses can experience – primarily sight***
- \* reason is exact: digital sets, algorithmic logic that can be stated in propositional terms***

#### **6. Knowledge is additive.**

- \* the goal is to create one grand unified theory [GUT]***
- \* it is built by adding facts to the whole***
- \* it is potentially exhaustive***

**7. Disagreements lead to conflicts and attacks**

**8. Science and theology in tension.**

- \* *reductionism***
- \* *God-of-the-gaps***
- \* *stratigraphic approaches to integration***

**9. Science and tradition.**

- \* *science seen as a new kind of knowledge, tradition is rejected as prelogical and superstition***
- \* *start of the 'schooling' approach to learning***

## **IMPACT ON CHRISTIANITY AND MISSIONS**

**1. The Gospel is equated with objective truth**

***\* conversion is to affirm that truth***

***\* conversion does not involve affective or evaluative responses***

**2. Reason becomes the basis for determining truth**

**3. There is little room for nonempirical this worldly realities**

**4. There is no room for mystery or paradox**

**5. There is a division between 'pure' and 'applied' knowledge that devalues the latter**

**6. Knowledge becomes increasingly abstract and divorced from particularities**

**7. In the search for proofs, is little room for wisdom**

# ATTACKS AGAINST NAIVE REALISM

## 1. Physical Sciences:

- the scientist is part of the picture.
- it is impossible to have a theory that is: 1) strong, 2) autonomous, and 3) logically consistent.

## **2. Psychology of science:**

- we are studying people, not objects. Therefore:
  - 1) reflexivity: our theories must apply to ourselves.
  - 2) the people are studying us.
  - 3) our presence modifies the scene of observation.
- we as scientists are humans influenced by our personalities and histories. Subjectivity is an essential part of knowing.

### **3. Sociology of Science.**

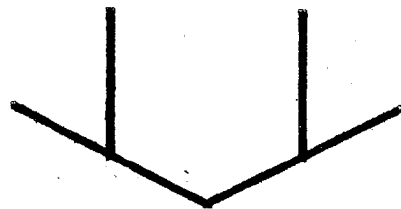
- **scientists are part of social communities that influence deeply their theories.**

### **4. Anthropology of Science.**

- **scientists are in particular cultures and histories, and are shaped by these.**
- **as anthropologists live deeply in other cultures, their views are radically changed. They become bicultural people.**

## 5. Philosophy of Science.

- science is rooted in western philosophy.
- knowledge is not positivist, but shaped by the personality, community and culture of the scientist.
- knowledge is paradigmatic in nature (Kuhn).



**COLLAPSE OF  
NAIVE REALISM**



