

THE LIMITS OF A.J. AYER'S VERIFICATION PRINCIPLE AS THE METHOD IN MODERN SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

The fostering role of science in the understanding, interpreting, prediction and development of the world is an enormous contribution hence, explained the huge interest in many philosophers and scientists into the enterprise. Understanding and interpretation of science could help demarcate it from the non-science, meaningful and meaningless. It is in this curiosity that Alfred Jules Ayer built his contribution to the scientific enterprise on verification principle as a way of demarcating science from non-science even as he attaches meaningfulness only to science. According to him, for anything to qualify as scientific knowledge it must pass through the sledge hammer of experience. That is, it must be seen, tested and experimented otherwise it is not only non-scientific but useless and nonsensical. However, the researchers argued that knowledge generally resides in the understanding that, the world composed of two major blocks or categories observable and the unobservable, matter and spirit material and nonmaterial categories. These also explain the indispensability of complementation. The work argued that Ayer's verification principle fails to take into cognizance the other aspects of realities to include the activities in quantum mechanics and subatomic world and this negligence automatically delimits his verifiability principle hence inadequate as a principle particularly in modern science.

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