

# Evaluating Kuhn's Theory of Scientific Development

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## Introduction

The scientific revolution started in the 16th and 17th century with development of the scientific theories (Hatch, n.d.). These Scientific theories are detailed explanation of some aspect of the natural world, based on knowledge that has been repeatedly duplicated through observation and experimental procedures. The understanding or the attempt to understand the human's perspective of the world through scientific theories is the birth to the philosophy of science (Okasha, 2002). Several perspectives of scientific theories have been postulated by many on the history and philosophy of science. One of such is the Kuhn theory of science development postulated by Thomas Kuhn. His theory brought about a new perspective where scientific theories are placed in an umbrella of a grand theory called the paradigm. Thomas Kuhn who was born in 1922 in Cincinnati, studied physics at Harvard, graduating summa cum laude in 1943, applied his knowledge of quantum physics to humanities of science developing the Kuhn theory of science development (Bird, 2012). Although, earlier perspective of the process for the development of science is based on the ideology of linear cumulative addition to existing theory, the focus of this essay will on Kuhn's view of process of science development; where normal science undergoes a periodic Paradigm shift as a result the questionable accumulation of

anomalies (Okasha, 2002). This essay will give a brief analysis of the Kuhn theory of scientific development, also discussing the strength as applied to social sciences as well as its weaknesses in biological sciences; which is centered on the argument of incommensurability and paradigm replacement.

Kuhn's paradigm and paradigm shift

According to Kuhn, ...

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