

Humanistic and Scientific Approaches to Human Activity

Moody E. Prior

- The humanistic and scientific approaches differ from each other. The effect of the scientific ordering to a human activity is to produce detachment from the individual experience, the effect of the humanistic ordering, on the other hand, is to encourage involvement.

- Humanistic Approaches
- The effect of a humanistic ordering is to encourage involvement.
- Death is a permanent loss.
- Devastation is personal.
- The world takes on a different aspect and apprehends experience after ***Hamlet*** or ***War and Peace*** has been conceptualized.

- The works of literature of necessity involve us in such responses as pity, fear, sorrow, pleasant and bitter choice. They extend the range of our sympathies.
- It doesn't mean that a student/teacher of literature will necessarily be more human and wise. But the arts and humanistic learning will contribute their share to shaping the attitude of those who take a serious interest in them.
- There are some important functions which humanities cannot perform.
- The humanities cannot take all the methodological procedures of the sciences nor duplicate the comprehensive inclusiveness of scientific generalizations.
- The power of literature lies in its capacity to involve us in its data in a predetermined way and the uniqueness of individual experience.

- Scientific Approaches
- The effect of a scientific ordering is to produce detachment from the individual experiences which are being dealt with.
- Death is a number in hospital
- Survey is general.
- The world takes on a different aspect after mass and gravity and evolution have been conceptualized.
- The creations of science are necessarily neutral with respect to their human meaning or use.

- It doesn't mean that a student/ teacher of science thinks logically, clearly, and impartially than a non-scientist. But science will leave its impress on the ways a man thinks and shape his/her character.
- There are some important functions which science cannot perform.
- Science lacks the capacity of the arts- concern for the individual experience and to search for its human meaning.
- In science, the closer an intellectual synthesis approaches the scientific ideal, the more completely will the human act lose its individual significance.