OCCAM'S

RAZOR

--()--

Introduction

Occam's razor (or Ockham's razor) is a philosophical principle that suggests if two explanations are equally likely, the simpler one is usually the better. Additionally, the more assumptions that have to be made, the more unlikely any given explanation is.

This means that if there are several possible ways that something might have happened, the explanation that uses the fewest guesses is probably the right one.

Nevertheless, Occam's razor only applies when the simple explanation and complex explanation both work equally well; however, if a more complex explanation does a better job than a simpler one, then the complex explanation should be used.

In essence, the principle states that "Entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily".

Latin

Sometimes Occam's razor is quoted in one of its original Latin forms:

"*Pluralitas non est ponenda sine neccesitate*":

"Plurality should not be posited without necessity"

--()--

"*Frustra fit per plura quod potest fieri per pauciora*":

"It is pointless to do with more what can be done with less"

--()--

"*Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem*":

"Entities must not be multiplied beyond necessity"

--()--

Attributed

Occam's razor is attributed to William of Ockham, the 14th century Franciscan friar and logician, who was born and lived in the United Kingdom county of Surrey.

Comment

Stephen Hawking said: "*We could still imagine that there is a set of laws that determines events completely for some supernatural being, who could observe the present state of the universe without disturbing it. However, such models of the universe are not of much interest to us mortals. It seems*

better to employ the principle known as Occam's razor and cut out all the features of the theory that cannot be observed." (*A Brief History of Time*, Stephen Hawking)

End

<div align="center">

--()--

</div>