Prompt Chosen: To what extent is certainty attainable?

How often do we judge the real certainty behind the affirmations? Many times, there are values in society which are declared as right, and 100% correct, but in reality, is this certainty attainable in future implications? The word, Certainty, according to the Cambridge dictionary, means something that cannot be doubted, nevertheless, does the meaning always correspond to reality?

First Object- Quadratic Formula

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

(Dockrill;2019)

The first object that I've selected is the quadratic formula, an example of a source of knowledge where certainty was attainable.

The quadratic formula is a mathematical formula which was created to facilitate the discovery of the answers of a quadratic equation. It was discovered after years of tests with all kinds of different values to then be considered as right. Mathematical formulas are rules, which are written with mathematical symbols, as x and y for example, therefore they are meant to help the academic to understand and solve different equations. As Mathematics has been in society since ancient times, there always were people who were trying to improve and to develop the area, so that the general population could better understand it.

Consequently, to what extent the quadratic formula can be declared as a type of knowledge where certainty was attained? The quadratic formula can, it can be declared as a source of knowledge where certainty is attained. It can be affirmed as that because of all the processes that it already passed through, where it has even been stated as a rule, so yes, certainty was attained. Mathematical formulas once formed, are forever, they cannot change over time.

Not only the quadratic, but all mathematical equations which are set up as rules, are described as a hundred percent certain. If there were a lot of research and tests behind it, then it can be denominated as correct, as certain. Humans will never find errors in it, there is no way to prove that the formula is wrong.

Second Object- Weather forecast



(Steinberg, 2019)

The Second object that I've selected is the Weather Forecast, which is an example where certainty is attainable many times, but many times not.

The Weather Forecast is a provision of how the main aspects of the atmosphere will be in the next few days. This provision is a study made by meteorologists and scientists by measuring the atmosphere aspects and collecting the highest quantity of data so that the provision really applies to reality. Nonetheless, while there are deep studies from specialists to conclude the final version of the Forecast, Atmosphere and the climatic conditions are not always as expected. Atmospheric conditions can completely change in a few seconds, making that all the studies and data collected unfortunately lead nowhere.

However, can Weather Forecasts be classified as a source of knowledge where certainty is attainable? It depends. There are two ways to lead this critical thought. One way is by stating that if a source is deeply studied, analysed by specialists and shared with the public as something which is true and real, therefore it is certain. Also there is the idea of thinking about it as something which is certainly imprevisible and can not be classified as certain, as there were situations where it failed. But also is way too extreme to treat it as if it is false, and does not lead us to nothing, because in many situations, it was right, there were much more situations when it was right than when it was wrong.

To conclude, Weather Forecasts are a source of information which certainty is partially attainable. In some occasions certainty is and sometimes it is not attained. Weather Forecasts are a mid term between certainty not attainable and where it is attainable.

Third Object- The black Cat



(Bartlett;2012)

The third object that I am using to contrast with the other two and to respond to the prompt, is the Black Cat Superstition. It is a source of knowledge where certainty is not attained.

The Black Cat Superstition was created in Europe, in ancient times, and according to the myth, this kind of animal brings bad luck. The myth was created without any kind of concrete knowledge about it, it was created by local people, probably by experiencing some situations where maybe a black cat brought bad events to a person. And as at that time, information was not judged as certain or not, the myth easily got power and spread over the world. With this information being all over the world, black cats started being killed many times, and also instead of killing, some sailors used to treat them well, feeding them, to guarantee that their trips would occur fine.(Pezzoni,2018)

Therefore, as there is no scientific proof, that black cats bring bad luck and that they can harm our lives, and if they are treated in a good way, they would not affect the ones who saw it, this superstition(Pezzoni,2008), and all superstitions are types of knowledge where certainty is not attainable. Even considering different perspectives, and real life examples that the superstition is real, there never existed a scientific study that would prove it as real and as applicable to daily life.

Some arguments to state a different side would be as for example, that there are some people who put faith in superstitions. There are some people who witnessed situations where superstition coincided with real life. But these kinds of arguments are simply unuseful. As there is no knowledge and study behind it, trying to prove that it is real.

Therefore, superstitions are a source of knowledge that can't be judged as real, and certainly not judged as certain also. Therefore, it is a source of knowledge where certainty was not attained.

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