

Comparative Method

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Abstract: The comparative method refers to a set of statistical methods and ideas for studying adaptive evaluation across groups of biological species. Comparative methods are an important branch of evolutionary studies primarily because of their ability to reveal broad or general evolutionary trends, and to provide insight into adaptive evolution. In recent decades, it has also been appreciated that they can be used to study evolutionary trends in human societies and so have begun to be widely used by anthropologists as well as biologists.

Keywords: Adaptation, Ancestral states, Anthropology, Body, Brain, Dinosaurs, Evolution, Human evolution, Mammals, Natural selection, Phylogeny.

1. Introduction

In linguistic the comparative method is a technique for studying the development of languages by performing a feature by feature comparison of two or more languages with common descent from a shared ancestor and then extrapolating backwards to infer the properties of the ancestor. The comparative method may be contrasted with the method of internal reconstruction in which the internal development of a single language, is inferred by the analysis of features within the language both methods are used together to reconstruct prehistoric phases of languages to fill in gaps in the historical record of a language to discover the development of phonological morphological and other linguistic systems and to confirm or to refute hypothesized relationships between languages. Comparative method aims to prove that two or more historically attested languages descend from a single proto-language by comparing lists of cognate terms from which regular second correspondences between the languages are established. A sequence of regular sound changes can then be postulated which allows the reconstruction of a proto-language relation is deemed certain only if at least a partial reconstruction of the common ancestor is feasible and regular sound correspondence can be established, with chance similarities ruled out.

According to David Collier: Comparison is a fundamental tool of analysis. It sharpens our power of description and plays a central role in concept formation by bringing into focus suggestive similarities and contrast among cases. Comparison

is routinely used in testing hypotheses and it can contribute to the inductive discovery of new hypothesis and to theory building. The forms of comparison employed in the discipline of political science. Vary widely and include those contained in statistical analysis, experimental research and historical studies.

At the same time, the label comparative method has a standard meaning within the discipline and in the social sciences more broadly comparative method that have emerged over roughly the past two decades. Although the primary focus is on discussions located in the field of comparative politics and international studies. The analysis of social change in history are carried out with the help of several methods is the comparative method used in sociology. This entails the study of different groups and institutions in order to examine similarities and differences.

All sociological and political researchers involve the comparisons of cases or variables which are similar in some respects and dissimilar in others. A major methodological issue is whether or not the units of comparison (Whole societies, major institutions religions, groups, and so on and the indicators chosen to compare differences of similarities are genuinely comparable and can legitimately be used outside their specific cultural things. The features under examinations may occur within the same society for instance rates and classes belonging to the same society may be mutually compared, or the same variable may appear in different societies like the rates of social mobility among the same strata but in different societies comparative method is amply used in anthropological and ethnological research.

2. Conclusion

Comparative methods are the main methods of comparative historical or statistical analysis, a rich and historic tradition that was begun by the founding figures of the social sciences and includes a number of the most influential social scientists of all time.

References

- [1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparative_method