

Paradigms

paradigm=frame of understanding

By: Finn Boelsmand, lektor in physics and chemistry

Paradigms in nature science.

Paradigms are a set of assumptions that without any special reason are accepted by the scientific community. Paradigms point out both the interesting scientific areas and the methods that should be researched for. The scientific work under a paradigm is characterized as normal knowledge. Results from experiments that cannot be explained within known paradigms are called anomalies. If these become too serious, the paradigm changes through a scientific revolution.¹

In his investigation of science history almost up to today, came Thomas Kuhn (1922-1996) to the conclusion that natural scientific environmental theories haven't improved from all of the latest finds. They are supposed to, if nature science should be objective and open. However, normally the nature science environment works within today's predominant paradigms. Finds that had better match a different paradigm do not always receive support for increased research. They marginalize, forget or reject to utilize the predominant paradigm that modern scientists have been handed down from their University professors and lecturers. Recently, it appears that more and more finds are not matched with the predominant paradigms. What will happen? Kuhn is a pessimist in consideration to when the paradigm changes: It happens most often when the older scientists retire and give way to the new generation of scientists, who have an eye for a new paradigm, that anomalies seem to point to be a better match.

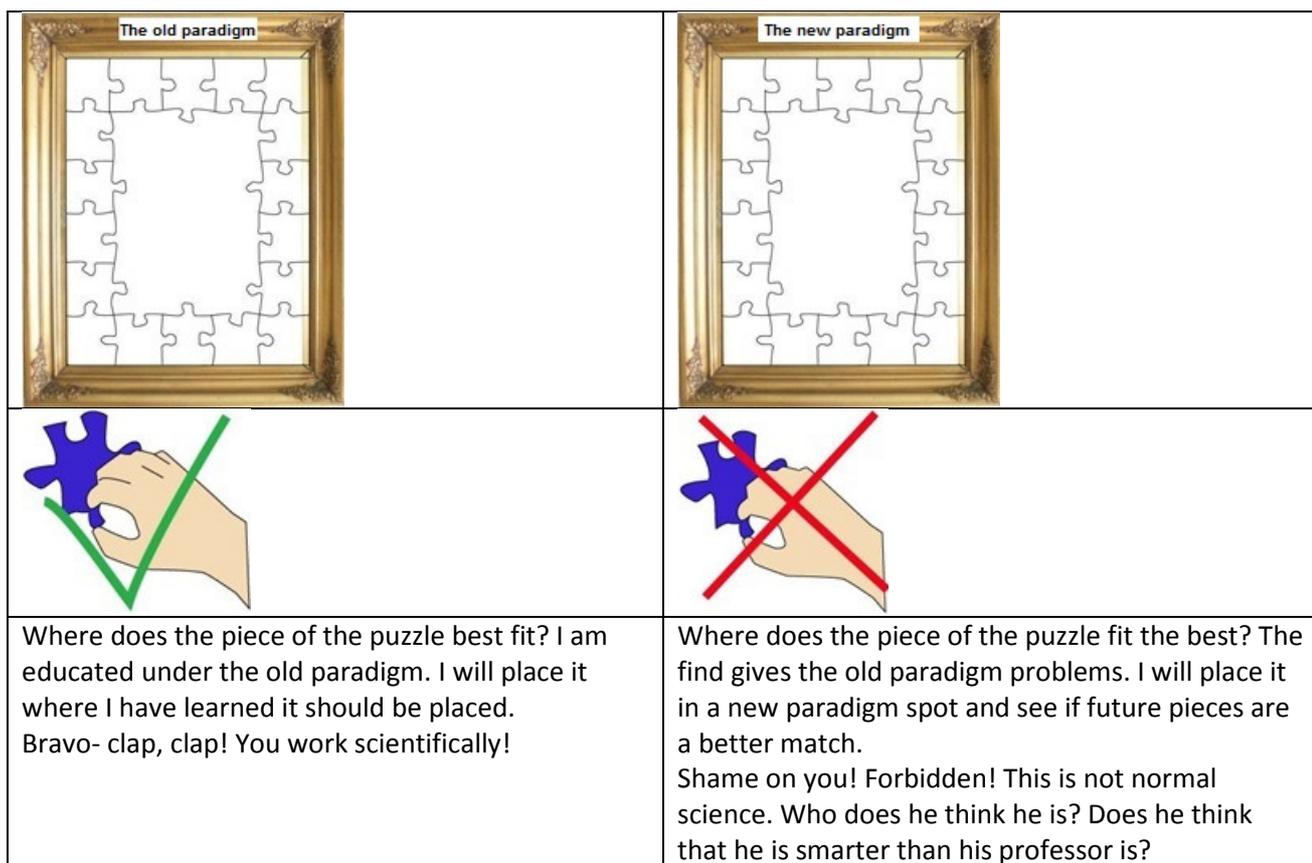


Figure 1. The old and the new paradigm.

Litterature

¹Morten Brydensholt; Tommy Gjøe, Claus Jessen; Ole Keller; Jan Møller; Jens Vaaben: *Orbit BA*, side 240. Forlaget System. 

² Morten Brydensholt; Tommy Gjøe, Claus Jessen; Ole Keller; Jan Møller; Jens Vaaben: *Orbit BA*, side 235-237. Forlaget System. 