



The Generative Order and Mechanism

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Internal and external relations

- Increase in complexity depends on the modification of lower levels to the pattern of a new higher level.
- Mechanism explicitly excludes such a possibility.
 - ◆ There can be no new level if what the lower levels are is independent of the relationships into which they enter.
 - ◆ If there is an internal relatedness of the higher and lower levels, new features can emerge.

Internal and external relations

- ‘Evolution, on the materialistic theory, is reduced to the role of being another word for the description of the changes of the external relations between portions of matter. There is nothing to evolve, because one set of external relations is as good as any other set of external relations. There can only be change, purposeless and unprogressive’ (Whitehead, 1925: 151-152).

Failures of mechanism

- To understand development and evolution as processes where internal complexity increases – sees only external relations
- To provide a satisfactory explanation of regeneration – incompatible with wholeness
- To account for when genetic information remains potentially active in a differentiated cell – concentrates on actually active information