Emergence, symmetry breaking and neurophenomenology as pillars of the chemical tenet.

Andrea Dei

LAMM Laboratory, Dipartimento di Chimica dell’ Università di Firenze, UdR
INSTM, Via della Lastruccia 3, 50019 Sesto Fiorentino (Firenze), Italy
Email address: andrea.dei@unifi.it

Since Heraclitus and Parmenides the human thought was based on the research of the first principles governing the world. This necessity requires the adoption of an invariance concept which in turn is described by laws and theories defined by symmetry properties. Chemistry does not follow this paradigm, because of its intrinsic interest in inducing a break in the order towards the emergence of a new order through a symmetry breaking process. Indeed chemistry is basically the study of macroscopic matter and its transformations. The manipulation of the matter always requires the adoption of a realistic approach, which is strongly contrasting with the definition of an absolute truth. The minds of chemists are continuously addressing the verification of the potentialities of Nature and these potentialities are always referred to a reference context defined by other chemical compounds. When these properties are considered from another point of view, they lose a part of their significance. In this sense chemists adopt a divergent pragmatism which is rather clear from the neurophenomenological approach they use in the interaction with quantum world. In fact the approach discards the study of the essence of the real things, since only the knowledge of the relationships between the things is necessary.