Main difference between Hasty Generalizations and Slippery Slope
by _Norva Lo_ - _Friday, 7 September 2012, 4:18 PM_

Consider the following argument:

> `D"` If we have a law banning advertisements of tobaccos, that will soon lead to a new law banning advertisements of alcohols, which will later lead to another law banning advertisements of fatty or sugary foods and drinks, which will later lead to another law banning advertisements of high risk sports such as bungee jumping, which will later lead to another law banning even advertisements of travelling to countries where the murder rate is high such as in South Africa, which will eventually create an extreme puritanical society where government interferes with every choice that people make in their private life - a clearly disastrous outcome for everyone.

> **7"** ˙ We should not have a law banning advertisement of tobaccos. (from P)

(a) Why is it more appropriate to regard the above argument as committing the Slippery Slope fallacy, rather than the fallacy of Hasty Generalization?

(b) In general, what is the between the Slippery Slope fallacy and the fallacy of Hasty Generalization?

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Re: Main difference between Hasty Generalizations and Slippery Slope
by _Catherine_ - _Wednesday, 5 September 2012, 8:57 PM_

I have chosen to answer this question the opposite way around because it makes a better flow. :)

b) The main difference between a Hasty Generalization and a Slippery Slope argument is that a Hasty Generalization uses a _specific_ non-representative case to jump to the conclusion. Whereas, a Slippery Slope uses a _chain_ unlikely of events to jump to a conclusion.

If the original argument was a Hasty Generalization it would look more like:
P. A law banning advertisment of tobaccos was introduced in Singapore and because of that my cousin commited suicide.

C. Banning tobacco advertisments will make us all commit suicide.

a) Because the original argument suggests an unlikely _chain_ of events, rather than a _specific_ non-representative case, it is a Slippery Slope argument.

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Re: Main difference between Hasty Generalizations and Slippery Slope
by ˙ _5bbY_ - _: f]XUy, + GYdĦŸa VYf ˙201&, ' :$$ PM_

a) The items of concern are mentioned in a specific order, clearly showing the 'domino' effect typical of a slippery slope fallacy. Each consecutive 'ban' is (hypothetically) leading to another, with an initial event leading to a disasterous event (again, typical of a slippery slope argument).

If the argument was Hasty Generalization, the author would have to jump from 'banning advertisements on tobacco' straight to 'puritanical society', with even less evidence or reasoning behind the leap.

b) A slippery slope fallacy contains an unlikely causal chain of events that leads to the conclusion. A hasty generalisation contains no chain of reasoning. [And unlike a slippery slope fallacy, the reasoning involved in a hasty generalisation does not need to be about causul relations.]

(Edited by _Norva Lo_ - original submission Friday, 7 September 2012, 3:53 PM)

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Re: Main difference between Hasty Generalizations and Slippery Slope
by _Norva Lo_ - _: f]Xay, + GYdĦŸa VYf 201&, ' :)' PM_

Very good and insightful replies!

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Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Norva Lo - Saturday, 15 September 2012, 1:54 PM

(a) Give an example of an argument that **commits** the fallacy of Weak Analogy, and explain why the argument commits the fallacy. Also indicate what the primary and secondary analogues are, and what the features F(s) and K are in the argument.

(b) Give an example of an analogical argument that **does not** commit the fallacy of Weak Analogy, and explain why the argument does not commit the fallacy. Also indicate what the primary and secondary analogues are, and what the features F(s) and K are in your argument.

You should not use the examples that have already been given in the lectures or the quizzes.

(Hint: See Lectures 4, 5, 7 for the roles of primary and secondary analogues and the roles of features F(s) and K in an analogical argument).

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Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by ?Uh\Yf]bY˙ - Tuesday, 11 September 2012, 11:03 AM

(a) P1. Emma is blonde and scored low marks in maths.
P2. Georgia is blonde and scored low marks in maths.
P3. Sam is blonde
C. Sam will score low marks in maths

This is an example of an argument that commits the fallacy of Weak Analogy, because there is no systematic connection between being blonde and an individuals score in maths.

(b) P1. Emma didn't study and scored low marks in maths
P2. Georgia didn't study and scored low marks in maths
P3. Sam didn't study
C. Sam scored low marks in maths

This is an example of an analogical argument that does not commit the fallacy of Weak Analogy because there is a systematic connection between studing and mark in maths.

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Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Norva Lo - Hi YgXUy, %% GYdhŸa VYf 201&, 5:51 PM

Very good.

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Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?

by Justin - Thursday, 13 September 2012, 8:50 PM

A.

P1. Government is like business,

P2.So just as business must be sensitive primarily to the bottom line

C. So also must government.

This is an example of an argument that commits the fallacy of Weak Analogy, because the objectives of government and business are completely different, so probably they will have to meet different performace indicators.

B.

P1.Justin didn't work and had no money

P2.Bob didn't work and had no money

P3.Jason didn't work

C. Jason had no money

This is an example of an analogical argument that does not commit the fallacy of Weak Analogy because there is a link between working and having money.

Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?

by Norva Lo - Friday, 14 September 2012, 12:38 AM

About argument A: The analogical argument is incomplete. It should be rewritten in the following format:

> P1. A business has features F1, F2, ..., etc., and has (feature K) the need to be sensitive to the bottom line.
> P2. A governent also has features F1, F2, ..., etc.
> C. A government also has (feature K) the need to be sensitive to the bottom line. (from P1 and P2).

Now, in order to make the argument into one that commits the fallacy of weak analogy, the features F1, F2, ..., etc., need to be ones that do not make support the need to be sensitive to the bottom line.

Can you suggest what feature F1, F2, ..., etc. should be so to make the argument into one that commits the fallacy of weak analogy? (extra chance to score more bonus points!)

Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?

by Norva Lo - Friday, 14 September 2012, 12:37 AM

About argument B: it would be a stronger analogical argument if it gives more feature Fs. For example:

P1. Justin didn't work, has no inheritence, has no financial support from living family members or friends, and had no money

P2. Bob didn't work, has no inheritence, has no financial support from living family members or friends, and had no money

P3. Jason didn't work, has no inheritence, has no financial support from living family members or friends,

C. Jason had no money (from P1, P2 and P3)

In the above argument:

Feature F1 = being unemployed
Feature F2 = having no inheritence
Feature F3 = having no financial support from living family members or friends
Feature K = having no money.

Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Christie - Saturday, 15 September 2012, 1:04 AM

a)

P1. Jackson is gay and likes rock music.

P2. Alex is gay and likes rock music.

P3. James is gay.

C. James likes rock music

The above argument commits the fallacy because ones sexual orientation is irrelevant to their music taste. It is impossible to generalise that anyone who is gay likes one specific type of music as the two factors aren't linked.

b)

P1. Bob is a student who attends university because he wants to learn new things to expand his knowledge.

P2. Sarah is a student who attends university because she wants to learn new things to expand her knowledge.

P3. Jessica is a student who attends university.

C. Jessica wants to learn new things to expand her knowledge.

The above argument does not commit the fallacy as there is a connection between choosing to be a university student and wanting to learn.

Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Norva Lo - A cbXUm, %+ GYdhYa VYf 201&, 5:53 PM

About the argument in (b): Using "because" instead of "and" is OK.
For "P because Q" **implies** "P and Q".

Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Uhood - Saturday, 27 October 2012, 6:18 PM

(a) the example of an argument that **commits** the fallacy of Weak Analogy:

P1. I did not eat my breakfast and i infected flue.

P2. Jenny didn't eat her breakfast and she infected flu.

P3. Ahmad didn't eat his breakfast.

C. Ahmad also infected flu.

Because there is no systematic connection between eating breakfast and flu.

(b) the example of an analogical argument that does not commit the fallacy of Weak Analogy:

P1. I swam in cold weather and i infected flu.

P2. Jenny swam in cold weather and she infected flu.

P3. Ahmad swam in cold weather.

C. Ahmad also infected flu.

Because there is a systematic connection between swimming in cold weather and flu.

Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Norva Lo - A cbday, 2- October 2012, 10:43 DM

The question also asks you to **indicate**, for each example you give, what the primary and secondary analogues are, and what the features F(s) and K are in the argument (see Lectures 4, 5, 6 for details on those aspects of an analogical argument).

Can you do that please?

Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Uhood - Monday, 29 October 2012, 6:36 PM

(a) the example of an argument that **commits** the fallacy of Weak Analogy:

P1. I (Primary analogue A1) (F)did not eat my breakfast and i (K) infected flue.

P2. Jenny (primary analogue A2) (F) didn't eat her breakfast and she (K)infected flu.

P3. Ahmad (Secondry analogue B) (F)didn't eat his breakfast .

C. Ahmad (secondry analogue B) (K) also infected flu .

(b) the example of an analogical argument that does not commit the fallacy of Weak Analogy:

P1. I (Primary analogue A1)(F) swam in cold weather and i(K) infected flu .

P2. Jenny (primary analogue A2)(F)swam in cold weather and she (K)infected flu.

P3. Ahmad(Secondry analogue B) (F)swam in cold weather.

C. Ahmad (Secondry analogue B)also (K) infected flu.

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Re: Examples of Weak Analogy?
by Peter Evans - Hi Ygday, ' $ CWhcVYf 201&, 5:53 PM

Correct, well done.

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