**Misconceptions of Thinking**

**A Book Review on *Thinking, fast and slow***

*Thinking, fast and slow*, written by Daniel Kahneman, is an excellent guide book of psychology, which convincingly elaborates the process of decision-making and judgement, helping us to avert errors and biases to the greatest extent.

At the beginning, Kahneman writes extensively about the key idea of his research, employing two fundamentally different modes of thought: system 1 and system 2. System 1 operates automatically and quickly without effort. System 2, on the other hand, is intelligent, logical, taking the charge of self-control, but is effortful and a burden to us. Though system 2 can prevent us from making mistakes, it is much slower and inefficient in making routine decisions. As Kahneman puts it, “The best we can do is a compromise”. It is suggested that we should associate system 1 and system 2 together to exert a joint effect on thinking rationally.

Following the explanation of the two systems, he focuses on a diverse set of biases and prejudice that influence our judgments in daily life, which sheds light on human brains’ limitations and defects of rational thinking.

Among abundant effects and theories Kahneman has presented, one interesting concept is about the phenomenon of how people jump to conclusions on the basis of limited information. He has an abbreviation for this phenomenon—“WYSIATI”—what you see is all there is.” When we hear a story or an incident, we tend to accept it as a fact without considering any view dissenting or contradicting. Exposed to a soaring number of reports and news on social media, people may simply trust them with segmental or one-sided words, instead of making further inquisition to ascertain the authenticity.

In a nutshell, Kahneman has unveiled how we think and how our thinking influences us. Meanwhile, he has aroused public concern regarding cognitive biases, alerting us to the fact that we are overconfident in human judgement. Thanks to a wide array of researches, experiments and surveys, this book is totally intelligible and understandable to non-specialists, which is definitely an eye-opener to all of us university students. I can’t recommend it strongly enough.