

# **SOCIAL INTERACTION AND STRUCTURE**

# WHAT IS SOCIAL INTERACTION?

- Refer to the process by which people act and react in relation to others. In this process, language, gestures, and symbols are used.
- Much of what people do every day is interaction. Who we interact with depends on the roles we play in the world.

Ex. daughter- parents, siblings, neighbors, relatives

student- teachers, classmates, schoolmates, mentors, people in  
bus station/ jeepney terminal, carenderia attendant

salesperson- customers, bosses

businessmen- clients, customers, partners, people in airports,  
flight attendant

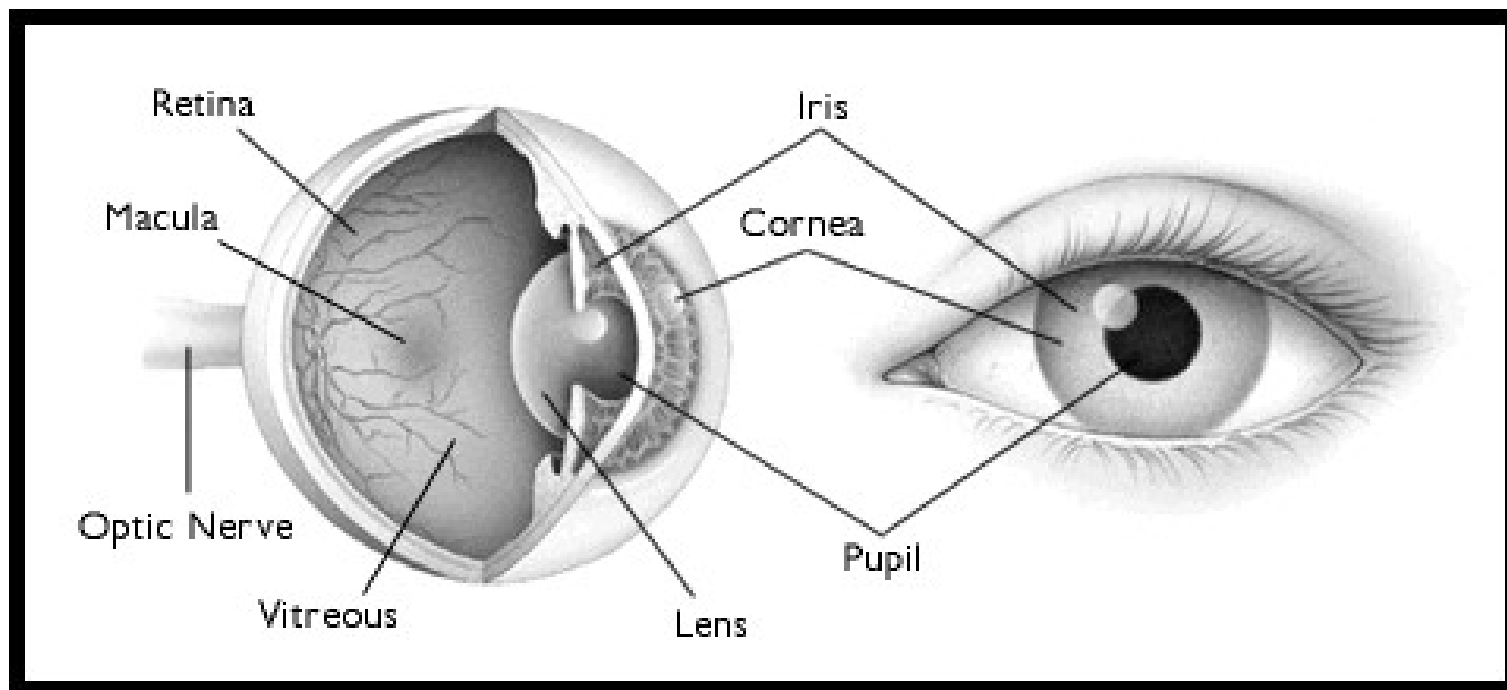
- Social interactions ranges from the most superficial contacts (strangers passing in the street) to deep, lasting, and complex relationships (husband-wife, parent-child).

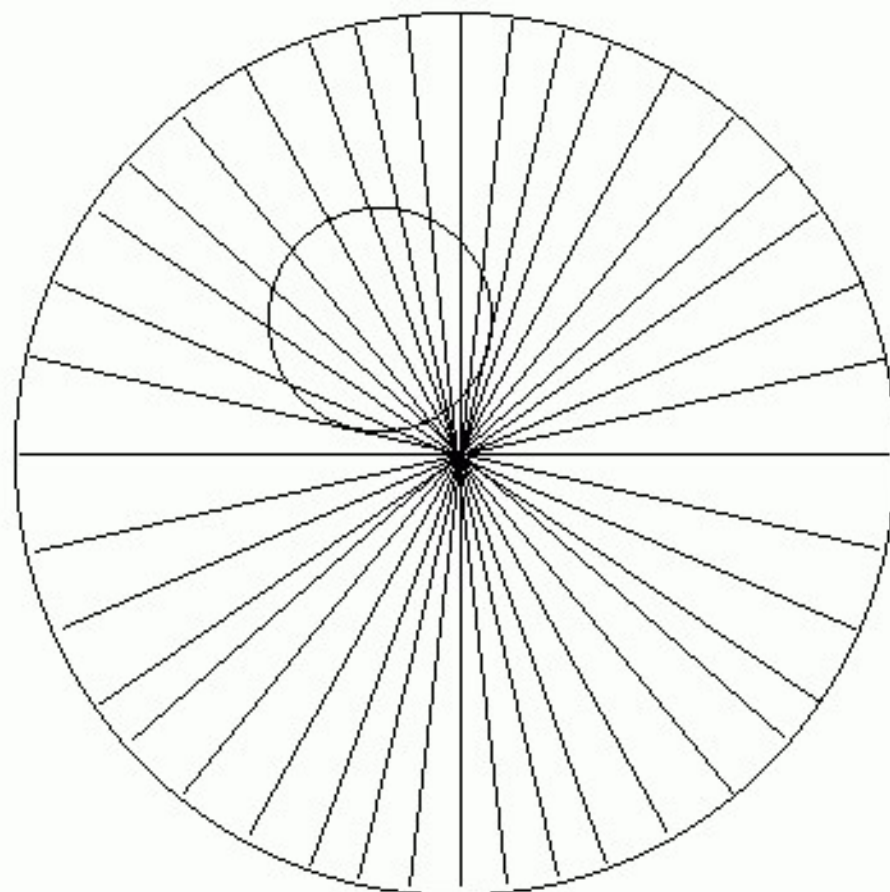
- Herbert Blumer noted that the distinctive characteristics of social interaction among people is that **“human beings interpret or define each other’s actions”**. This means that our response to someone’s behavior is based on the meaning we attach to the other’s actions. Reality is shaped by our perceptions, evaluation, and definition of such reality.

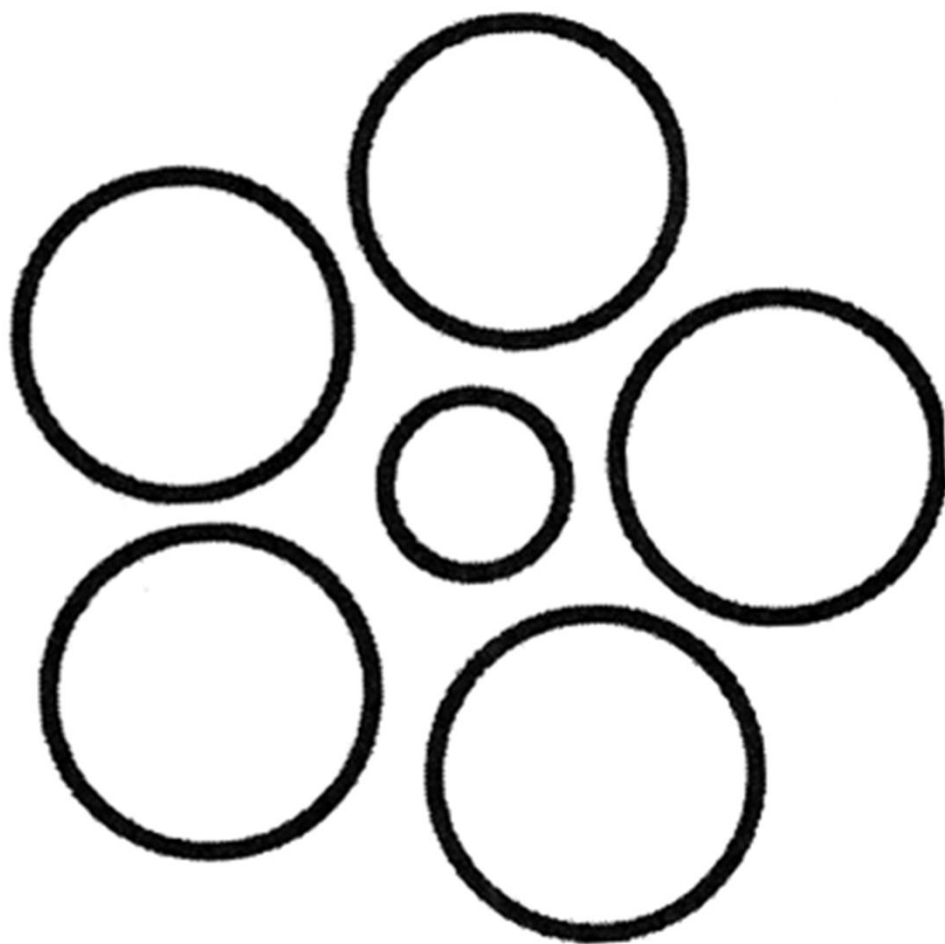
## SENSATION VERSUS PERCEPTION

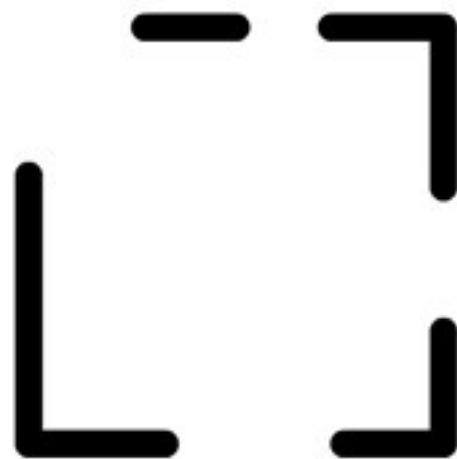
**Sensation-** the activation of our sensory organs by a source of physical energy

**Perception-** the sorting out, interpretation, analysis, and integration of stimuli by the sense organs and the brain









THE CAT

A  
12 13 14  
C











fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid  
too. Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny smoe plepoe can.  
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phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid,  
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the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt  
tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in  
the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses  
and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm.  
Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mniddeos not raed  
ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a  
wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas  
tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt! if you can  
raed tihs sahre it.

## **FACTORS THAT AFFECT PERCEPTION**

- a. Context
- b. Previous Experience
- c. Preference

# HOW HAS SOCIAL INTERACTION CHANGED THROUGH THE YEARS?

- From big families to smaller families
- Social media
  - Interests groups, clubs, events, cyberbullying
  - Campaigns, advocacies
- Chat rooms, email, video conferencing
  - E-Lamay, Online therapy, Online shopping, Online banking, Online teaching, Online jobs
- People becoming more mobile
  - OFWs, more convenient and cheaper travel
- Hotlines
  - Suicide hotlines, Mental Health hotlines

# BENEFITS OF SOCIAL INTERACTION?

- Improved health
  - In one study, medical students who were assigned to work in pairs had lower stress levels than those who were assigned to work alone.
  - Another study reported that elderly people who like to eat out, go to movies and take part in other social activities live an average of two and a half years longer than people who spend most of their time alone. The physical health benefits of socializing were equal to physical exercise, even though the social activities involved almost no physical exertion. It wasn't physical activity or physical health but feeling worthwhile that led to longer life. Good health and eating counted, but it was social interaction that was responsible for the results.



- In one experiment, paid volunteers had a cold virus sprayed in their noses. The people with very few or no social contacts were four times more likely to come down with cold symptoms than those with lots of social contacts.
- A study of newly unemployed workers found that those who had the support of spouses had lower cholesterol levels than those who lacked such support.
- A study of married and unmarried individuals found that those who are not married experience a higher mortality rate than those who are
- A study of pregnant U.S. Army wives found that women with rich social resources had only one-third the complications of those without social connectedness.
- In a recent study of on-the-job stress, investigators found that men and women with good social support networks had lower heart rates and lower blood pressures than those who lacked such social support.

# TYPES OF SOCIAL INTERACTION?

- Cooperation

- This refers to collaborative efforts between people to achieve a common goal
- Ex. Basketball team working together to win a championship  
A community working together after a calamity

- Conflict

- Sociologists stress that conflict is significant in social life. It involves direct struggle between individuals or groups over commonly valued resources or goals.
- Positive sociological effects include group cohesion
- Ex. Conflict of children over TV channels, toys, attention of parents  
Conflict of countries over territories, oil, natural resources

# 5 dysfunctions of a team



# TYPES OF SOCIAL INTERACTION?

- Competition

- It is a form of conflict in which there is an agreement on the means that can be used to pursue an end. There are more rules and limits that are imposed on the interaction.
- Ex. Basketball Tournament, Board Exams

- Negotiation

- People may negotiate the term under which they agree to social exchange, social cooperation, or competition. In the process of negotiation, two or more competing parties reach a mutually satisfactory agreement. When negotiation fails, conflict or coercion sometimes occurs.
- Ex. Economic Treaty, Peace Agreements  
Agreement at home as to who does the chores

# TYPES OF SOCIAL INTERACTION?

- Coercion

- One party is imposing an action of behavior on another, such as through the use of physical force
- “is the practice of forcing another party to act in an involuntary manner by use of intimidation or threats or some other form of pressure ”
- Ex. Policemen using water to disperse rallyists
  - A bully demanding lunch money to a student or the student gets beaten
  - Mother punishing the child if he/she doesn't sleep

# **WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN SOCIAL INTERACTIONS?**

- Communication
- Connectedness, Vulnerability

# ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL INTERACTION?

- Status

- Refers particularly to a position in a social structure; any position that determines where a person “fits” within a society
- We can have multiple positions in the society we interact in
- Ex. Boss- Employee                      Teacher- Student  
                Parent- Child                      Friend- Friend  
                Bank President- bank teller- customer

## ASCRIBED STATUS VERSUS ACHIEVED STATUS

Position that is received at birth or involuntarily assumed later in life  
Ex. daughter, senior citizen, widow

Position that is assumed voluntarily and that reflects a significant measure of personal ability and efforts  
Ex. manager, pilot, clerk, president

# ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL INTERACTION?

- Roles

- Every status carries with it socially prescribed roles, that is, expected behavior, obligations, and privileges.
- It may be referred to as the dynamic expression of a status
- Ex. Friend- helpful, caring, loyal, understanding

Mother- caring, nurturing, handles money/budget., takes care of kids when they get sick

Manager- effective communicator, good interpersonal skills

## ROLE STRAIN VERSUS ROLE CONFLICT VERSUS ROLE EXIT

When people find it difficult to perform the role expected of them  
Ex. employee

Occurs when carrying out one role results in the violation of another  
Ex. employee & mother

When people disengage from social roles  
Ex. priest decides to marry



# WHAT INFLUENCES SOCIAL INTERACTION

- **Goals and motivations**

- Goal: state of affairs one wishes to achieve, Motivation: is a person's wish or intention to achieve the goal
- Ex. running to the bakery early in the morning

**Goal:** to be able to buy fresh bread

**Motivation:** morning exercise, to breathe fresh air, to meet with a friend who also buys bread at the same bakery, to have breakfast early so he can go to work early

- **Situation or context**

- Context refers to the conditions under which an action takes place.
- (1) physical setting or place, (2) social environment, (3) activities or events surrounding the interaction

# WHAT INFLUENCES SOCIAL INTERACTION

- **Norms or rules**

- Are specific rules of behavior that are agreed upon and shared and prescribe limits of acceptable behavior
- Ex. dressing up at the beach (swimsuit versus shorts)  
greeting (handshake versus kiss on the cheeks)  
eating (fork & spoon versus fork & knife)  
( wait to be seated verses finding a seat directly)