View on Chapter 5 (Sensation and perception)

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Notions of sensation and perception have always been a puzzling subject area for discussion. Such distinguished philosophers like Aristotle, Hobbles, and Titchener made great contributions to the scrutiny of these phenomena although did not succeed in concluding an agreement. Since these ideas are inextricably intertwined, they tend to produce many controversies. This paper investigates the concepts of sensation and perception, theories of perception, and human motivation to actions.

Sensation as “the process of detecting a stimulus (or some aspect of it) in the environment” is a first step of the transduction. The latter is possible only when “the way in which we interpret the information gathered (and processed) by the senses” is realized (Levine, M. W., Shefner, J. M., 1991). Hence, the transduction incorporates physical sensing of a stimulus presence (sensation), and a further mental comprehension and interpretation of impulses received (perception). Sensory systems of vision, auditory, olfaction, gustatory, and somatic sensation have a primary role in the information processing since they transmit impulses from sensory receptors to the corresponding part of the brain.

There is a bewildering variety of perceptive theories to ponder on although the focus is to consider Instinct, Drive Reduction, Arousal, Psychoanalytic, and Humanistic theories of motivation. They provide not only some basic biological explanations but also transcend concrete elucidations. With respect to the Instinct and Drive Reduction concepts, human beings have particular biological needs, which make us act in a certain way to fulfill the internal tension produced by such feelings like hunger and thirst (National Academy of Science, 1959). On the contrary, proponents of Arousal idea refer to both biological and emotional or intellectual activities. It does not depend on the tension reduction exclusively, but a balanced amount as well. Psychoanalytic approach regards the two basic Life and Death drives, which stimulate one to survive and escape from any destruction. Humanistic theory embraces a hierarchy from physiological to self-actualization needs. Therefore, basic issues of survival and those of higher lever are predominant incentives.

In conclusion, sensation and perception process are inevitably overlapping since they enable people to receive and analyze data from the external world. It predetermines a motivation for the future actions with the aim of needs satisfaction.

References

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