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[Scybernethics & Sense of Agency] 🧵□🪀

The concept of "scybernethics" emphasizes the crucial role of the observer-actor in shaping knowledge and understanding, especially in relation to technology.

Here's how "agency", particularly the *sense of agency*, is integrated:

1. the "Ambijective Gesture":

The scybernethics framework already emphasizes a constant cycling between objective, third-person perspectives and subjective, first-person experiences, termed the "ambijective gesture".

This gesture itself can be understood as a core manifestation of agency. It highlights the active role of the individual in navigating and integrating different perspectives, shaping their own understanding and relation to knowledge.

2. "Dialogical Dialectics" as Enactment of Agency:

The concept of "dialogical dialectics," which involves holding the tension between opposing poles of a concept in suspension, directly reflects the sense of agency.

This active engagement with contrasting viewpoints, rather than seeking a simplistic synthesis, embodies the individual's agency in constructing meaning.

3. "Processual Thinking" as Embodied Agency:

Central to scybernethics is the notion of "processual thinking" - understanding concepts as dynamic processes rather than static entities. This mode of thought inherently implies agency.

Engaging in "processual thinking" requires actively tracing the emergence of concepts, understanding them as products of interactions and transformations, reflecting the agency inherent in shaping knowledge.

4. "Techno-Experiential Schemes" and Technological Agency:

Scybernethics utilizes computer simulations to understand cognitive processes, leading to the formation of "techno-experiential schemes".

This process of using technology to externalize and reflect on cognitive processes is a powerful example of agency. It underscores the potential for utilizing technology as a tool for enhancing self-understanding and augmenting cognitive abilities.

However, it's crucial to maintain awareness of the potential pitfalls of technology, avoiding its potential to diminish human agency.

5. Reframing "Intentionality" as Agency in Action:

Scybernethics identifies a close connection between the framework's core concepts and the philosophical notion of "intentionality".

Intentionality, in this context, can be reframed as agency in action - the directedness of consciousness towards a particular object or goal.

(N.B: I'm speaking here of the particular anglo-saxon interpretation of Brentano's intentionality, not of the original continental one).

6. "Middle Way" as Cultivating a Balanced Sense of Agency:

The "middle way" in scybernethics, inspired by the philo-phenomenological epochè (suspension of judgment), hermeneutic circulation and Buddhist thought, emphasizes navigating between extremes.

In the context of agency, this translates to cultivating a balanced sense of agency – recognizing both the individual's capacity to act and the influence of external factors.

The scybernethics framework provide a nuanced and embodied understanding of agency, specifically the sense of agency, in shaping human cognition, interaction with technology, and construction of knowledge.

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