Assignment-3

3)Do you think that a turn to materialism in order to understand mind is OK? If yes then why?

Before turning to materialism author explains about substance dualism and property dualism.He uses some modern physics and quantum science theories to contradict these beliefs.He seems to believe a weaker version of dualism i.e., property dualism because it avoids describing seperate entity called mind.By providing good aruguments against dualism he then moves to monism and classifies it into two flavours called idealism and materialism. Idealism belives only in mental or spiritual energy i.e. Only ideas exist . Materialism believes that only existing thing in the world are physical entities or matter or energy.The herculean task of materialism is to give a satisfying theory without denying consciouness of mind.The earliest version of materialism known as Behaviorism believes that mind is a behaviour of body.Logical behaviorism strongly rejects Descartes Theory saying that any mental state should be transformed to disposal human behaviour.I agree with the argument that human behavior is only a manifestation of mind but not mind itself because otherwise we have to feign anesthesia.I believe that another form of materialsim called physicalism it maps mental states to brain states.I also appreciate the strong will to show that mental states are reducible to material states of the brain.It defines mental state vocabulary as some thing going on inside me same as what goes on I see something.It balances between materialsim and dualism saying that mental state is a brain process.However the claim that mental state is atributed to some neuraonal stimulation has objections raised that without neuronal strucutre should there not be any mental state?' With the advent of AI(Artificial Intelligence)people argued that mind is to the brain as program is to a computer.I don't agree to this fully because Turing test asks a simple question that if no distinction can be found between human and machine performance then we can say machine has behaviorism which is not true.How ever there is a lot research in this field and such small tests may not suffice to contradict such theories.