Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course Name

Instructor’s Name

Date

**Why Heuristics Work**

**Part 1**

In our everyday life, we all make choices and take decisions, either good ones that can lead us in the right direction or bad ones that can take us into the middle of nowhere. Throughout my life, I had never encountered such a decision. It is the most important and most challenging I have ever made. It is the reason why I live my life the way I do, as it gave me all reasons to persist even during times of turmoil and struggle. People around me at that time thought that I was making a strange and stupid choice, but to me, I did not view it as strange; I knew that I had chosen the right one.

It happened when I was working in one of the reputable cookie and chocolate factories when I was in my first year in college as a part-time student. I was few months old in college and was blessed with one of the best job positions in that firm and was offering a good salary. Like many students feel after getting a job while in school, even completion, I was very excited to find the kind of enjoyment I was looking for, an opportunity that would allow me to buy whatever I needed. It was always my dream and desire to be a team member in one of the famous brands in the country, so this opportunity made me pay less attention to my studies, and eventually, it made me drop from school for a while. However, as days went by, I started to get sad, bored, and lonely since my life rotated between job and home. Going to the office every day and seeing a pile of files waiting for me became a nightmare that I could not get away from. I was like a prisoner trying to escape from a prisoner.

I felt so stuck over and over again until I realized no one else could change the situation except me. At that time, a thought came to my mind. I started evaluating why I chose that type of job and realized I had only a short goal of just making money right away to buy anything I wanted. This thought triggered a lot of ideas, one of them being the decision and choice that I value a lot. From those many ideas that were running in my mind, I realized that I was not supposed to search for a job from the word go. Instead, I should have searched for a career.

I finally decided to resign from a job that was paying me well and leave all the allowances and benefits I was enjoying so that I resume school and build my career. I also started a small business with the little amount I had saved, without any guarantee that it will help me to foot my bills. I received a lot of discouragement from family members and friends because I was leaving a golden opportunity to them, but I did not change my mind. Without any regrets or looking back, I started a new chapter in my life, and soon I will be graduating from this institution not to search for a job but to go and manage mine because I employed somebody who has helped my brand to grow. It is our choices that make us who we are. We should always consider doing what is right. We always choose to make whatever comes on our way and whatever battle that rag inside us.

In the process of making that decision, I applied two heuristics that I saw favorable to my case. Firstly, I used the take the best heuristic where I had to choose between the value of a career and a job. It helped me search the value of the two to the point I realized that a job only provides short-term solutions, but a career will give me long-term financial security by encouraging me to build my skills through learning to move up to the career ladder. Moreover, the tallying heuristic helped me to count advantages that I will enjoy from both job and career. It helped me to find out career had more benefits than a job (Gigerenzer 24). Other types of heuristics were not applicable in my case as I needed only those that would help me weigh the value and benefits of both the career and job to reach a reasonable conclusion. This is the best decision I made. It made me have control over my life. If, in any case, if I encounter such an issue, I will comfortably use the two heuristics.

**Part 2**

After looking earnestly into how heuristics relate to my own decision-making, I can conclude that in most cases, the rate at which individual uses heuristics is consistent with how they use the six attributes of critical thinking. Although heuristic acts as a mental shortcut in helping different individuals to make judgments and solve the problem (Gigerenzer 20), it requires one to apply elements of critical thinking. When using heuristics such as recognition and Fluency in decision making, one cannot decide without using some elements of critical thinking, such as seeking the truth and use of logic and reason to determine and recognize an alternative with high value.

Additionally, when using heuristics, one needs to refer to the attribute of being open-minded. For example, when using the two heuristics that require one to imitate the behavior of the majority of people or the most successful people while making a decision cannot be effective unless one is open-minded as it will help in welcoming of new ideas, information, or arguments that an individual does not align with (Gigerenzer 24). Also, when one is using a satisfying heuristic to search through the alternative that exceeds his/her aspiration level, attributes like being thorough must be adapted to ensure one chooses an alternative that will result in success (Facione 9). This results from a significantly higher degree of accuracy and details one gets when one uses the attribute.

Furthermore, when using tit for tat heuristic, one must ensure he/she uses the attribute of communicating effectively to enable him or her to cooperate with the person you want to imitate because it is challenging for somebody to maintain cooperation with another if he/she cannot communicate effectively (Facione 12). Lastly, the critical thinking attribute of articulating relevant premises must be applied in several heuristics such as satisficing, tallying, fluency, take the best, and recognition in helping an individual select the alternative that will solve his/her problem completely.

Therefore, just like how the six attributes of critical thinking are not grounded informal rules of logic, also the ten heuristics are informal strategies of reasoning (Facione 15). This means most individuals combine both heuristics and critical thinking attributes to make their decision and solve their problems. It is hard to use one of them without using an element of the other as both of them help to complement the decision of each other.

Work Cited

Facione, Peter A. "Critical thinking: What it is and why it counts." *Insight assessment* 2007.1 (2011): 1-23.

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