

TOK Imagination Notes

- Imagination is relevant to knowledge in that it is the source of creative ideas. A great deal of intellectual progress is the result not of discovering new things but of new ways of looking at existing things.
- Imagination is the ability to form a representation of something which is not present to the senses. The word Imagination can be used to encompass 'both mental images and the entertaining of possibilities'

★ 3 types of Imagination: Creativity, Fantasy, and Realistic Imagination

- ❑ **Creativity:** *Creativity is a realistic form of imagination in which things are created through the use of our imagination and benefits society*
- ❑ **Fantasy:** Fantasy is an escapist form of imagination that is only distantly connected with the real world.
- ❑ **Realistic Imagination:** Realistic Imagination is imagination which is informed and guided by relevant facts.

★ There are 3 ways to see how Imagination can lead to knowledge

- *As a surrogate for experience*
- *As a support for judgement*
- *As a guide to possibility*

★ One form of Imagination is Empathy

- *Empathy helps us perceive what one goes through in which we can use imagination to help us understand the situations of others and relate to them.*

- *We also use imagination because we don't have direct knowledge of what the individual goes through*
 - *Helps us to judge a individual based on both sides of a situation*

★ *Importance of empathy*

- *Improves one's self knowledge as they can learn from an individual's mistake*
- *Can help a less knowledgeable person through shared knowledge*

- *Empathy quotient;*

★ *Moral Motivation ; using the misfortune of others to benefit others*

★ *Moral judgement;the act to treat others the way you want to be treated*

★ *Obstacles of empathy*

- *Time pressure , Power , Money Social groups , Beliefs*

★ *Mystery of Creativity*

- *Surprising and Unpredictable and the fact that theories explain subjects*

★ *Myth of a Genius*

- *One is referred to as a genius if one works in that field for 10 years (a lot of hard work and transformational energy)*

★ *Fantasy and Distortion*

- *Imagination can decay(less descriptive) in fantasy and prevent contribution to knowledge*
- *Decayed Imagination can turn into*
 - *Seductive images ,Illusionary patterns,and Imaginary fears*

★ *Illusionary pattern*

- *Society needs Imagination*
 - *Objects are used to project people's fantasies and think that there are patterns in it (people knower days come up with outrageous ideas)*

★ *Seductive Images*

- *Images , scenes and descriptions that an individual finds interesting (includes presentation of people)*

★ *Imaginary fears*

- *Bias and fantasy can distort the way we see political and social events*

★ **Imagination in school**

- **Can be used to help create ideas for projects**

★ **Obstacles with Empathy**

- **Time Pressure:** *When we feel under time pressure we become less interested in other people and are more inclined to ignore their feelings and focus on our own business.*
- **Money and Power:** *Empathy can also be corrupted by money and power. Studies suggest that the rich are generally less empathetic than the poor, perhaps because one understands the struggle of life.*
- **Beliefs and Emotions:** *You might not be empathetic to the homeless person if you believe that they are lazy, or for a minority group if you have seeing things from someone else's point of view, and your burning sense of indignation will destroy one's empathy*

★ **Limitation of Imagination**

- **Distrusted because its is influenced by personal feelings , tastes or opinions**

Sense Perception

<https://prezi.com/p/iutvtpsm775c/>

Asma:

Introduction:

There are 5 different types of Senses :Taste, Touch,Sound,Smell, and Sight. All of these are equally important for human beings connection to the world, they also affect the way knowledge is formed.This implies to many subject areas such as in Biology when we do observations we use our senses to predict and create new observations.In history we use eye witnessed accounts, which is only possible with help of our senses. You may be wondering what is Perception all about, it is common sense realism. Which basically means that perception is straightforward and an accurate reflection of reality. It allows us an accurate picture of reality.

Can we really distinguish between whether what we see from our senses is actually reality There are Three Reasons why we need to treat Perception with caution.We may misinterpret what we see, We might not notice everything, We may not fully remember what we actually saw.So we are not sure if our belief is accurate how do we distinguish appearance and everyday reality? The first way u can check is by the Confirmation by another sense; So if you're not sure that the conclusion you made based on one sense try using another sense. For example if i eat an apple i can see it looks like an apple, and to check if it is actually an apple I can taste it.

But if something looks like an apple but doesn't taste like one then that is like an illusion
For example when we put a stick halfway in water it looks bent but when we put our hand through the water it is actually straight, Some people might question this and be like isn't seeing more important than touching. However touch takes the priority over seeing because when u put ur hand through something u can actually feel that something is there. For example if someone isn't sure whether there is a door they can actually touch it to see whether it's there. And according to the textbook if you back your head to a wall to see if it's there you get hurt, and you feel pain . If there is pain then it is real

Coherence:

Another way of distinguishing between reality and appearance is to use Coherence. If everything you see in the world and know of is one type and something doesn't fit then it's not real. So for example i see a cat flying one day I know that's impossible because that's how the world works so I won't believe what I actually saw.

Independent Testimony:

Another method of distinguishing between reality and appearance is to use independent testimony . This is when a single person's vision cannot be trusted it is based on when everyone can view something Our senses are able to make mistakes in order to make sure we know reality we can use any of these three points So for instance if in this whole class i only think that we saw a video clip but no one else in the whole class saw i couldn't believe myself.

Vision

- Doesn't Matter what race it is, us humans seem difficult to distinguish other races we all have the feeling that they all look the same. WELL GUESS WHAT GUYS... YOU ARE WRONG it's because all we see is facial appearances, and we become blind to other differences .Other race effect which is the tendency to more easily recognize faces of the [race](#) that one is most familiar with (which is most often one's own race).
- So i found some cases on line which stated that
- Participants watched a video of a property crime being committed, then in the next 24 hours came to pick the suspect out of a photo line-up. Most of the participants in the study either misidentified the suspect or stated the suspect was not in the line-up at all. Correct identification of the suspect occurred more often when the eyewitness and the suspect were of the same race.^[26] In another study, 86 convenience store clerks were asked to identify three customers: one white, one black, and one Mexican, all of whom had purchased in the store earlier that day. The clerks tended to identify customers belonging to their own race accurately, but were more likely to make errors when attempting to identify other races members

Both these cases show us how the race culture we live shapes our perception so that's how we find people to be. Vision is one of the differences because when your perception is different you see things differently.

Conclusion:

Perception is an important part of knowing, Our senses may not always accurate because there is a personal bias that is included within them, So that is when we use our other sense to play a role in clarifying what is reality, However, we should only doubt our senses for a good reason. Perception cannot give us full certainty but according to the textbook knowledge requires less the certainty. If the evidence is consistent with other ways of knowing then it's a reliable foundation for reliable knowledge

Laraib

Subtopic 1: The Senses:

Subtopic 2: Selectivity of Perception

Subtopic 3: Ultimate Reality

The Senses

- People claim we have few as 3 types of senses
 - mechanical (touching and hearing)
 - chemical (touch and smells)
 - light (vision)

-Others say we have more than 5 senses

Proprioception: awareness of the position of your limbs in space

Equilibrioception: sense of balance

It helps us humans and animals from falling over when standing or moving.

Interoception : awareness of stimuli originating inside the body

Signals in the body

Thermoception : awareness of temperature

Hierarchy of Senses

-some human senses are believed to be more important than others

-Naturally tend to connect vision with knowledge

E.x we believe that when we see something we believe it. We won't say smelling is believing and when we understand someone we say 'I see what you mean' not 'i smell what you mean'

-some metaphors for knowledge, we derive it from other senses

E.x you might say that someone has lost touch with reality than an argument smells fishy

Discussion Q: if you were to sacrifice something, what would it be?

-most people say they would lose smell (also called "mute sense")

-because, our smell vocab does not extend much beyond like the other senses

E.x on a clear, dark night you can see a candle flame from several miles away or when it is quiet you can hear the wind rustling

-if you lose one of your senses, evidence suggests that your other senses compensate and part of your brain originally develops to the lost sense and it gets rewired and use the other sense to process.

-senses have a limited range of sensitivity and it captures only certain kinds of data

E.x our eyes are sensitive only to a light of a certain wavelength and are able to see things as ultraviolet and infrared which lie beyond the visible spectrum

E.x our eyes can detect only certain kinds of sounds and our nose can only smell certain types of smells.

Conclusion: we should not assume the human sense perception is identical with the underlying area of the reality

Integrated Senses: Synaesthesia

-If you are wondering what synaesthesia is: It is an unusual condition in which 2 or more of the senses we normally experience separately are experienced together

- Most common form of synaesthesia is perceiving letters & numbers as colored
 - Known as the wiring of the brain, some people say we are partially synaesthesia
- E.g Hearing a musical note might cause a person with synesthesia to see a particular colour; C is red, F sharp is blue. Or perhaps the number 2 is always green and 5 always blue.

E.g Other people may taste spoken words, for example, on hearing the word 'table' they might taste apricots, whereas 'book' tastes like tomato soup

-Discussion Q: Consider the Bouba-kika test and imagine which is bouba and which is kiki

-Everyone considers the one on the right to be bouba as it is round and the one on the left as kiki as it is sharp

-our brain gives signals right away with the sounds/sights

Alternative senses: Animals

Animals have senses as well

- E.g dogs can hear and smell things

Echolocation: bats navigate using echolocation, emit high frequency sounds, judge shape, size and distance of objects

Their ears are more important than their eyes-they find things using echoes.

Magnetic Sense: birds are able to travel thousands of miles with assistance of satellite navigation

Heat detection-snakes have temperature which allows them to locate their prey

Selectivity of Perception

- Our our senses tell that they are selective
- We are sensitive to moving objects
- E.g if you work at a desk by a window, your attention may suddenly be caught by something which make you look up without knowing why
- Or when an object is moving close to you, it represents a threat and therefore notice it

Interests

-particular interests that you have determine what shows up as you look around

E.g i go for a walk with 3 friends. 1 kid can be focusing on naturw, 2 person looking at clothes, and the 3 nothing as he/she is focused on something random

-shows how our perception on something affects they way we see things

-as the pattern changes of our interests we start to observe things similarly

Did this ever happen to u guys, you buy a new car and you start to see the model everywhere.

Emotions

-feelings and emotions also shape and colour our perception

-when you feel good about something that happened in a day, you start to see the world in a different way then when you are in a bad mood you hate it

-when you fall in love with someone, you like that person a lot and look str perfection

But when you fall out of love, you are like what was so special in him/her

Ultimate reality

-extent to which perception gives us knowledge of ultimate reality-we might fail to see what's actually there

- A way to distinguish appearance from reality is to use another sense to tell what something is

-our experiences are subjective

E.g sounds, taste, sights don't exist there, it's the experience of these sensations

E.g experienced sound would be a actual car crash we hear and the physical sound-vibrations in the air

Ex. If a tree falls, and there is no one to hear the sound, does it make a sound?

-ofcourse it does

-physical and experienced sounds

If a rose flower dies in an uninhabited garden and there is no one there to see it, does it still have a colour?

-distinguish between physical and experienced colour

-it has colour but the latter senses it does not

Lastly think

-consider the tables in the classroom at school. After you leave the room,how do you know the tables are still there?

--it may sound it's common sense question

Theories of Reality/what should we believe

1. Common sense realism “What you see is what is there”

- Since we perceive things determined by the nature on our sense-organs, we have sense that there are reasons for rejecting sense-realism

2. Scientific realism “atoms in the void”

- The view that the real world is not the world as it appears to our senses

3. Phenomenalism “to be is to be perceived”

- Physical objects are “bundles of sense-data”
- cannot be said it exists in themselves independently of our experience
- A phenomenalist would take the statement: “there are tables in the classroom”
 - If you go in the classroom you will have a table-experience

Two ways to rescue it:

1. We cannot prove the existence of an independent reality
 - a. E.x you light a fire and return some hours later to find only it pile of shrd
 - b. The idea was to explain that the fire was burning in your absence
 2. People believe that the world exists independent of our perception of it
 - a. Most scientists are intuitive realists and believe they are making discoveries about an independently existing reality
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SENSE PERCEPTION

SUBTOPIC #1: **PERCEPTUAL ILLUSIONS**

SUBTOPIC #2: **SEEING AND BELIEVING**

Perceptual illusions

- ❖ Perception is a complex process in which many things are going on below the level of conscious awareness
- ❖ Perception includes **two elements**

Sensation, which is provided by the world

Interpretation, which is provided by our minds

- ❖ We are not usually aware of our minds interpreting the sensations that flood into our senses
- ❖ Good way to be aware of interpretations is to look at **visual illusions**
- ❖ There are four kinds of **visual illusions**
- ❖ The four illusions arise from the interpretation we put on them

CONTEXT

- ❖ The way we see something depends partly on the **context** in which we see it
- ❖ In everyday life we are constantly making such **contextual judgements** without being **consciously aware** of it
- ❖ We examine the **overall context** of an image to make judgement of the **size of the object**

Example:



When we look at this picture we immediately judge the size of the person even if they are the exact same sizes but different perspectives.

FIGURE AND GROUND

- ❖ When we see something we tend to **highlight** certain aspects of what we **see**, and treat other parts as **background** (“ground”)

- ❖ We basically tend to zero in on certain aspects **(figure)** and we make other things the background.

Example: When you look at a page with writing on it, the black parts stand out and you pay no attention to the white background



When we see this image we ignore the black background and look at the ice cream

VISUAL GROUPING

- ❖ We have a natural tendency to look for **meaning** in what we **see and group** or **perceptual experiences** together into shapes and patterns
- ❖ Basically, we look for meaning in something and try to **fill in the missing information**



This image may not be clear, but our brain tends to “fill in the missing information” and allows us to see a girl.

EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ Our **expectations** usually **influence** how we see things

Example:



When you first look at this chart you do not realize the 2 **“the’s”**
This is because we do not expect to see the two the’s there and just ignore them.

Seeing and Believing

- ❖ In earlier chapters, we considered the idea that **“seeing is believing”** but, since our beliefs and expectation can affect the way we say things, sometimes it might be accurate to say that **“believing is seeing”**

SCIENCE- in the 19th century some scientists speculated that an undiscovered planet- which they named vulcan- existed between mercury and the sun. with belief in mind, astronomers claimed they seen it through their telescope, but went to verify it there was no such thing.

HISTORY- “bloody sunday” is an infamous day in the history of Northern Ireland. On january 30, 1972 there was a violent confrontation between British troops, and catholic demonstrators. They both believed in their own version of events and attacked each other when really there was nothing going on.

ART- In the visual arts , people have a tendency to draw and paint, not what they see but what they think is there. For example, when people were asked to draw horses they drew eyelashes on the upper and bottom lids when in fact horses don't even have eyelashes on the lower lids.