

'What is perception? Explain the role of perception in an account of the nature and limits of human knowledge.'

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In my everyday life I am aware of everything that comes to me from the moment I wake up until I sleep. I saw, hear, listen and touch everything to receive information to my brain. Some days I stay at home because of sickness or at the weekend, and most of the day I am calm at home. I feel a reduction of input of information to me and I am less tired than on other days. I think what I receive to my brain needs my lungs to process the oxygen because my brain has to work with what I receive.

Of course my perception from my sense channels has a limit. What I actually see not always what I seem to see. The mirage is one example: we see water on the hot street that does not exist. The stick in the water seems bend but it's not bent when we pull it up from the water. Our perceptions are not always correct.

If I grow up in some place that teaches or everybody knows and says that the color on the tree is called 'red' instead of 'green', then I start to receive that knowledge to my memory and store it. I believe that fact is true. Everything that I accept to my stock of theory I should believe to be true. I already believe it otherwise I will not accept it to my knowledge warehouse. Then my knowledge of the color 'red' is true for me and my city or town or my society. Is that correct? Yes I think it's correct to my place that I grow from. But is that different from my understanding about the world being flat?

I think if that a fact is a value-free fact, like the question whether the world is flat. I say and believe what I was taught in whatever place I grew up. Then I come to another society or culture that says, No this world not flat. This knowledge can be proved and finalized. How about dualism mind body problem? Now I sit at my desk at my office and look out of the windows. I can see another office building near by. There are a few people on the terrace taking their smoking break. Do I really saw those people? Or do I only see the image of people in my mind? Do I only perceive the image of those people? Am I not really seeing them?

This question really make me doubt my senses. Can I still trust my eye, my ear, what I touch? I think I still can believe what I sense, but there are some cases where I can't and I need to aware of that. By physical perspective the material that I see of course depends on my knowledge of form or my ideas about that material which enable me to interpret what I see, or my personal interest in focusing on that material. If I take an interest in the atoms in that chair then it's not a 'chair' that I see, it's just 'a collection of atoms'. Or if I'm a artist who spends everyday in my life with the peace of art, such as color or other aspects of art, I should see some logical world of art not just the chair.

That depends on my collection of beliefs in my brain. It's value and not the final fact I

think. But most interesting for me is, Do I just see the tree or only the image of a tree in my retina? It's only my subjective state that makes me believe, accept and register it to my warehouse of knowledge. Yes I guess it's subjective but I'm not saying that whether it is true or not depends on my beliefs. It can become true to my mind because I believe it's true, but in real world it's not true. It will continue be true for me until I learn or study the new theory and it changes my beliefs. Then I can have the real truth that our society agrees is true.

I learned something from my psychology MOOC class about the times our five sense can make mistakes. For example, when someone burns his hand but does not feel the heat or not as much heat as normal by trying to not think about it the fire burning his hand. In other words by ignoring or not paying much attention to that sense sometimes it does not effect us as it does normally. The hand was either burned or not. Of course, if it is a burn then he has the wound on his hand, but at that time he does not feel as much heat as normal. Or another example, when some person loses his arm but he still has some feeling from that side of his body from an arm that does not exist any more.

What this means is that the information is not one hundred percent accurate from our sense organs that make our brain feel. I pretty much believe and go with dualism, the theory that mind and body are separate. There are limits to our physical senses. You do not just believe in everything that you see in daily life. The car in street is not as small as it appears to me sitting at my desk. Why do I know? Of course I know from my experience.