

Course-CC-5 (Cognitive Psychology) Unit 1; Sem II

By

Ranjeet Kumar Ranjan,

Part time Assistant Professor, P.G Department of Psychology

Patna University

Contact No-993408701, E-mail: ranjeetkrbhu1234@gmail.com

PERCEPTION

Perception is the active process by which the brain interprets and categorizes sensory stimuli to determine their nature and meaning. The process by which we recognise, interpret or give meaning to the information provided by sense organs is called perception.

In other words perception is a complex mental cognitive process through which we have immediate and meaningful knowledge of the present stimulus in the environment. The process of organising visual field into meaningful whole is known as form Perception.

CYCLE OF PERCEPTION

Environment contains variety of information, some of which may be present in our schema and some not. Schema refers to mental representation of the knowledge about the world. Schemas which are packets of knowledge represent psychological environment around us and they guide our expectation.

Environment

According to gestalt psychologist we perceive

Schema

but not as discrete

Exploration

a “Whole” that carries a definite form. The Gestalt psychologist indicates that our cerebral processes are always oriented towards the perception of a good figure or pragnanz. That is the reason why we perceive everything in an organized form. The most primitive organisation takes place in the form of figure – ground segregation.

Figure & Background

We perceive things as a whole & a whole is much more than the some of its part. When the object is clearly visible it is known as Figure while the object is less clear visible it is termed as Background.

For eg., When we see words on a page or a painting in a wall or birds flying in the sky, we perceive painting, birds or words as a figure while the page, wall & the sky are perceived as background.

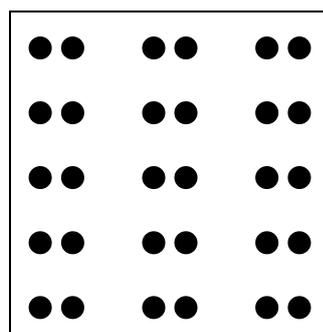
Difference between Figure & Background

1. Figure has a definite shape while the background is formless.
2. Figure is more organised as compared to its background.
3. Figure has a clear outline while the background has no outline.
4. Figure stands out from the background, while the background stands behind the figure.
5. Figure appears more clear, limited and relatively nearer, while the background appears relatively unclear, unlimited and away from us.

PERCEPTUAL ORGANIZATION

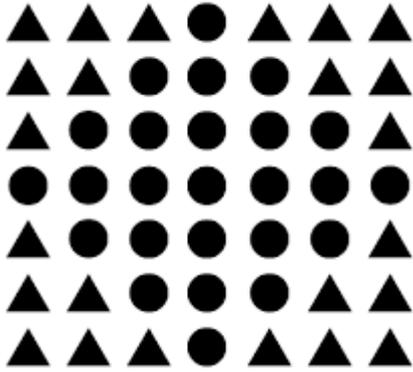
The principle of proximity

Objects that are close together in space or time are perceived as belonging together or as a group.



The principle of similarity

Objects that are similar to one another & have similar characteristic are perceived as a group.



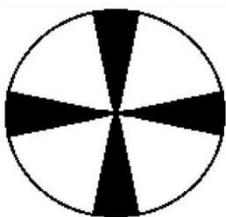
The principle of continuity

This principle says that we tend to perceive objects as belonging together if they appear to form a continuous pattern.



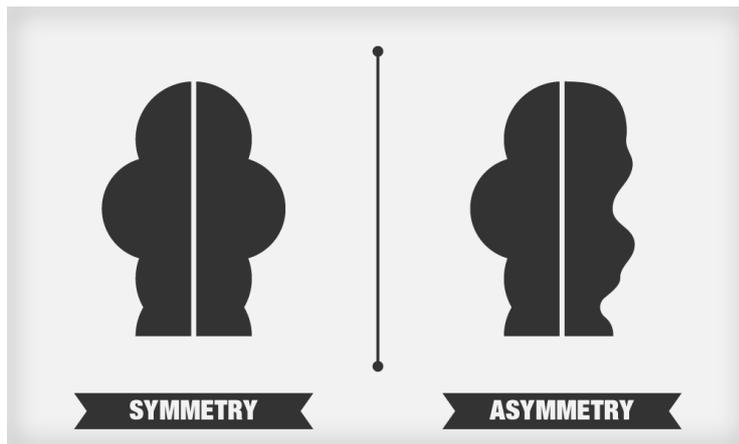
The principle of Smallness

According to this principle smaller areas tend to be seen as figure against a larger background.



The principle of Symmetry

This principle says that symmetrical areas tend to be seen as figure against asymmetrical backgrounds.



The principle of closure

We tend to fill the gaps in stimulation & perceive the objects as whole rather than their separate parts.



CONCLUSION:

There are different laws or principles which are given by Gestalt psychologists to explain how and why different stimuli in our visual fields are organized into meaningful whole objects.