

Prof. Rex Li's Writings

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Summary/ Abstract: My thoughts and ideas on consciousness and self.

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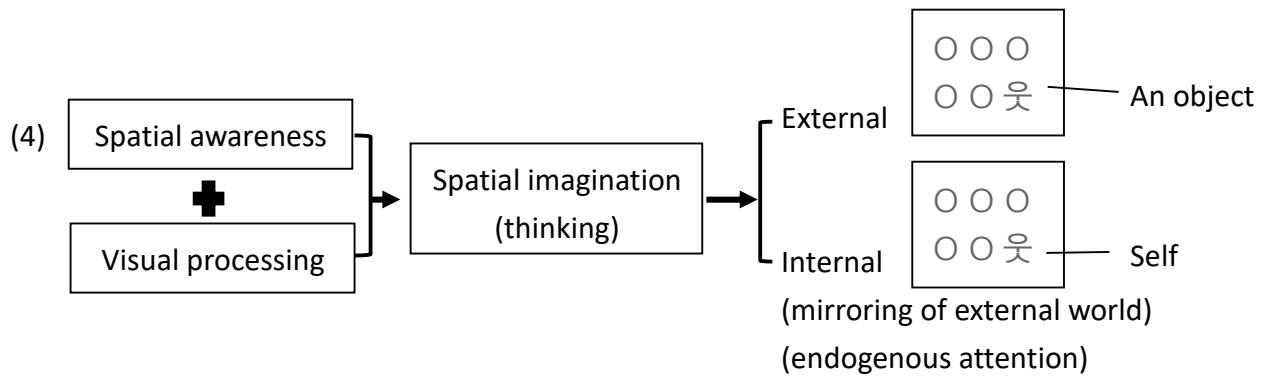
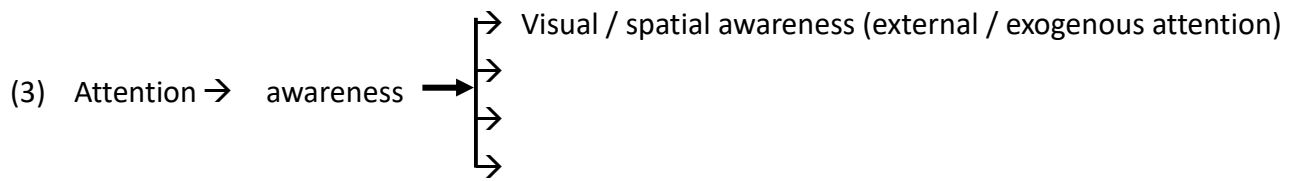
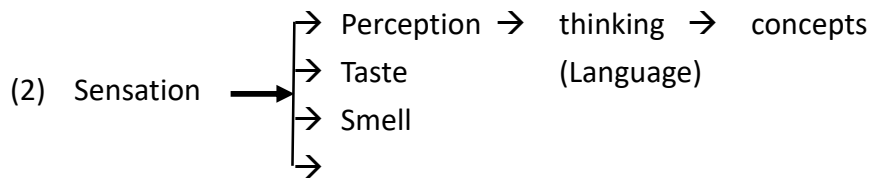
What is Consciousness and Self?

I think through this so I can pick up other's ideas.
I want to clarify and have a clear grasp of the concept.

(A) Use of Terms

Conscious (CS)	=	aware and know
Consciousness (CSN)	=	the state of the being conscious
Self-consciousness (SCSN)	=	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I know I know myself I know that I know
Selfhood	=	the sense of an individual self

(B) Starting Points



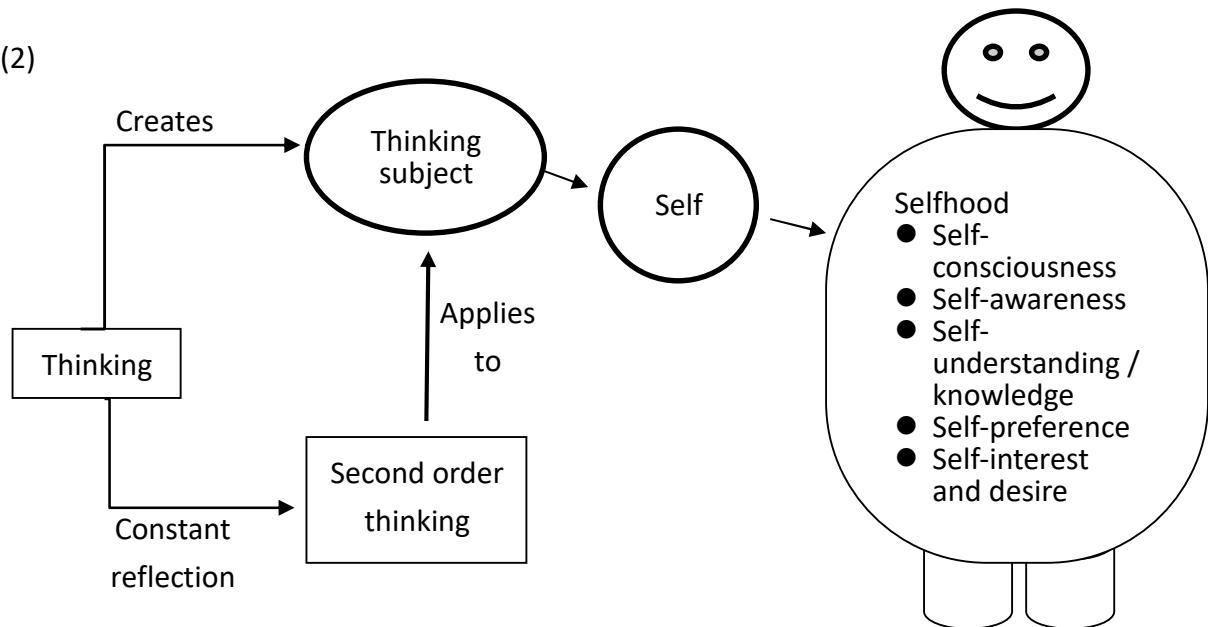
(5) Consciousness is a fact (Dewey), Consciousness and Self are terms in daily use. Nothing mysterious. (Churchland).

(C) Development

- (1) Consciousness must come from self, i.e. Self-consciousness. Without self, there is no Consciousness.

(without human beings, there is still Planet Earth, but no human Consciousness awaring of it.)

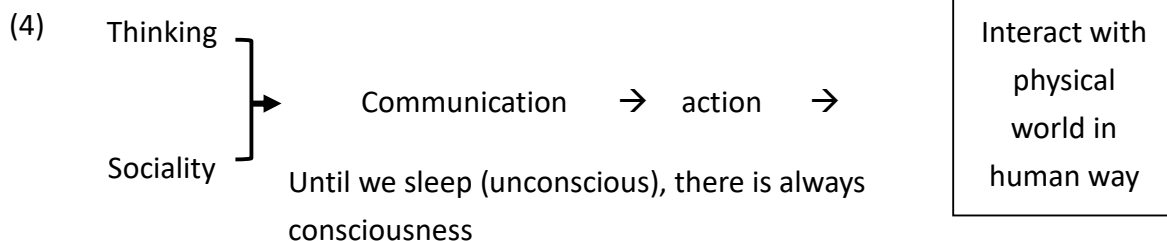
(2)



Thinking must be carried out in symbols and concepts. Symbols represent reality in an objective way. Thus the thinking subject herself is treated in an objective way by giving names (for example, Baby Susan is thinking). In this way, the thinking subject is named and created.

Thinking can keep going on with reflection, i.e. second order thinking, such as analyzing the thinking subject's thought. This constant reflection (loop) leads to the creation of self.

- (3) Self in human and symbolic world: the above point (2) is in symbolic world.



- (5) Physical base → neuro-base → Symbolic base (thinking / concept) → Self-consciousness

- (6) Consciousness as a cursor / the mind never stops

(D) My Experience of Self

I treat my “self” in 3 levels/ domains/ parts.

Part 1 - The Total Self:

Goal-oriented, consider-all-factors (CAF).

Dialog between reasons and emotions, priorities and wishes.

Try to reach with bliss and respect.

Part 2 - The Thinking Self:

The non-stop cursor, roaming and thinking, working, implementing, problem-solving, creating, flying, associating.

The normal sense of “using ones’ mind” to attend to daily matters/ problems.

Part 3 - The Physical Self:

All different parts of the body, external with sensory cells, feels physically, and the internal body organs, the achieving or feeling, sensation, etc.

It acts and does (Homo Faber) by five senses of the body organs.

R: I never thought that these ideas from the closet are useful and be better than Gopnik’s.