

Human perception –some bizarre perspectives

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ABSTRACT

Perception, many a time, manifests in bizarre ways. Sometimes we look at things but do not see/perceive them and at other times we perceive the things that do not exist. Brain is the area where perception is processed and even slight damage to the brain turns perception into bizarre events. There are people born with a brain circuitry which makes them perceive a color when they look at a digit and there are instances when a person possesses a brain which makes him/her remember minutest details of every day spent in his/her life. These are few of the bizarre happenings detailed in this paper. Perception, scientifically, is said to happen through the use of known five senses-seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting but there are occasions when we perceive without use of these senses, maybe there is a really a sixth sense. Perception has many bizarre manifestations and this paper takes a look at them. It is interesting to be aware about them.

Keywords: Perception, sixth sense, brain and perception, mind and perception, bizarre perception, ESP, Extra-sensory Perception

Can you believe that many times our eyes look at things but we don't perceive? Does this not sound bizarre? But still more bizarre are the things that are not there but we see them. There are many incidents when your eyes looked at things but did not perceive them. If you are not aware of an experiment by Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons (2010) (if you are aware of it, please skip the video and go to further discussions); I invite you to witness a video by opening the below link:- 18.01.114.20200804.docx

So, now, you may agree that many a time we look but do not see. Perception does play tricks and has bizarre perspectives and this paper just captures this fact and tries to analyze. We shall see how bizarre can perception be! I wonder how our minds can be fooled.

Let us take a journey into weird and bizarre instances of perception

In our school days, we were given a memory test wherein more than 30 different objects were displayed and we were asked to look at them intently for about half a minute and then those were covered with a bedsheet. We were, then, asked to write down the names of all objects. There was hardly one of us who could write the name of all the objects. We were told that this is a test about memory but in reality, it was a test of your power of perception, or to be more accurate your power of observation. Do you realize why you were not able to recollect all

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objects—to me it appears that you looked at some but your mind did not perceive them to leave an impression on your mind so that you could recollect the same? The things which you looked and saw made an imprint on your mind and when asked immediately to recall, you could do that but the ones you could not recall were the things which you looked at but did not see or perceive.

Road accidents are mainly caused because the eyes of the drivers looked at incoming colliding vehicles but did not perceive/ see them. Only after the accident, they exclaim, "how come I did not see it"? Our eyes look at many things but we do not really see or observe them. We see the things on which we focus but many things except the focused one do not register in mind and we do not notice them.

Coming back to the makers of the above video, Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons narrate many real-life incidents where people did not perceive things which their eyes looked at because they were concentrating on some other important activity. The things, they did not notice were in their full view but their mind simply ignored them and things went unnoticed.

They narrate an incident where during the course of a surgery a guidewire was introduced in the body of a patient which was to be removed after the surgery. The patient after recovery showed some distress signs and the doctors were looking for the reasons for the same and in course of their investigation X rays were taken three times and they studied the same in relation to the disease and surgery but during all three times, they overlooked the presence of the guide wire which was still there in body. It was very much visible in the X-Ray. It was noticed by some other doctor not connected with the surgery when he out of curiosity was looking at the case history and the guidewire was removed. The operating doctors missed finding the presence of the guidewire because they never expected it to be there. The perception was focused only on the things which they expected having a correlation with the surgery and the distress which happened post-surgery. This is an astounding example that we, many times, look at things but don't see /perceive them.

Diametrically opposite to the above fact, there is a fact that sometimes we see what isn't there. In my childhood and even now when I happened to look at water spilled on the floor; it always made a shape that looked familiar to some object. When I look at clouds, I could see familiar pictures formed in the cloud. I could see a big elephant, a bearded man or a mountain scene and so on... But they were actually not there. Sometimes, we are seeing things which aren't there. Our mind is creating these out of nothing and forcing us to perceive these non-existent things. I used to wonder why? I did not have an answer then, but now I have the answer. I happened to read an article where the author described, "Pareidolia"; and Pareidolia it was!

Pareidolia is defined as a psychological phenomenon that causes people to see patterns in a random stimulus. This often leads to people assigning human characteristics to objects. Susana Martinez Conde (2018) maintains that human brains are attuned to perceive faces – an entire region of the brain, called Fusiform Gyrus, is dedicated to it. The face detection skill by this portion of the brain, coupled with, our brain's compulsion to extract meanings from the sensory chaos that surrounds us, drives us to see faces where there aren't any.

It was *Pareidolia* at work that created pictures out of a chaotic field of clouds or the free flow of water on the floor.

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Most of the time, *Pareidolia* is behind the incidents where we see what isn't there. Please look at an incident quoted from my paper, "Paranormality—Myth or Reality"—Naresh Kumar (2020):

Pareidolia could be the reason, which, made me feel to see my deceased mother (presumably an instance of After Death Communication), on the day my father expired – Learning about his death, when I came out of ICU and glanced over the benches where relatives of other patients were sitting, I could not believe my eyes when I saw a lady resembling my mother (who had expired 36 years ago) sitting there on the bench. I told this to my brother, and, he, also, exclaimed that Ma has come to take away daddy!

But my sisters, who joined us immediately after, did not experience this phenomenon. It was, in fact, a different old lady sitting on the bench.

I think it was Pareidolia at work which created an illusion in our minds (mine and brother's), so, our minds could perceive our mother through a wrongly morphed face of our mother on the lady's face because of external stimuli of thought. Sister did not experience it as there were no stimuli to her brain as we had not shared our feelings with her. Thus, the mind under external stimuli can lead to the perception of anomalous happenings which, actually, have not happened but is the creation of the mind under external stimuli.

Many would say that it was, in fact, a discarnate apparition of my mother who was present at the bedside of my father and it was she who came to escort him to another world and it was due to her desire that she showed her presence to us momentarily. Who knows, even, this may be true!

To me, *Pareidolia* appeared to be the most logical reason and hence I narrated this incident. But this is a fact that we saw which wasn't there because it could not be my mother in a real physical sense because she had passed away many years ago.

As I mentioned that it may be true that the appearance of the discarnate spirit of my mother could be the handiwork of *Pareidolia*. The discarnate spirits often appear before their loved ones. It may be that it is *Pareidolia* only which is behind the manifestation of spirits/apparitions. When the loved one develops an intense emotion about the departed soul, the mind may undergo a state where *Pareidolia* is able to create an image of the deceased in form of an apparition and fool the eyes of the loved one as it happened in the case of my deceased mother.

Pareidolia is a mental phenomenon and makes the mind create familiar faces or patterns when eyes are looking at complex scenery. It has another dimension also where it can also result in the perception of two things from a single image. This visual illusion created by *Pareidolia* can be experienced by looking intently at the painting entitled "My wife and mother-in-law" by W E Hill. You will either see a young woman looking away or the profile of an old woman: two perceptions contained in the same picture.

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The picture is produced below, please look at it intently and you will find the two faces alternately:



It is very amusing to witness how perception can be so bizarre as to interpret two diametrically opposite meanings out of a single object.

I wonder, why is it that we have evolved to experience the impossible. On one side our mind has helped to rid the world of terrible diseases through the advancement of medical science, put a man on Moon, and begun to figure out the origin of the universe and on the other hand, the mind is capable of being fooled. Mind's ability to find imaginary patterns can relate to being the result of tripping of the brain on having formed patterns which are imaginary and not having a genuine instance of cause and effect. Indeed, working of the mind is mysterious and as seen above, it can fool us sometimes by making us see things which are not there or failing to see things which are there!!-----the bizarre aspects of perception!

Perception manifests through our brains and hence it is pertinent to the discussion about the perception that we take a glimpse into its working-the awareness about brain working will be helpful when we discuss weird perceptions caused due to damage of some part of the brain. Just to understand briefly the brain and its working, I took help from the book "Tell-Tale Brain" by V.S.Ramachandran (2010).

The short learning about the brain is given here under: -

The brain is an organ of just 1.2kg which looks as given in the pictures below:

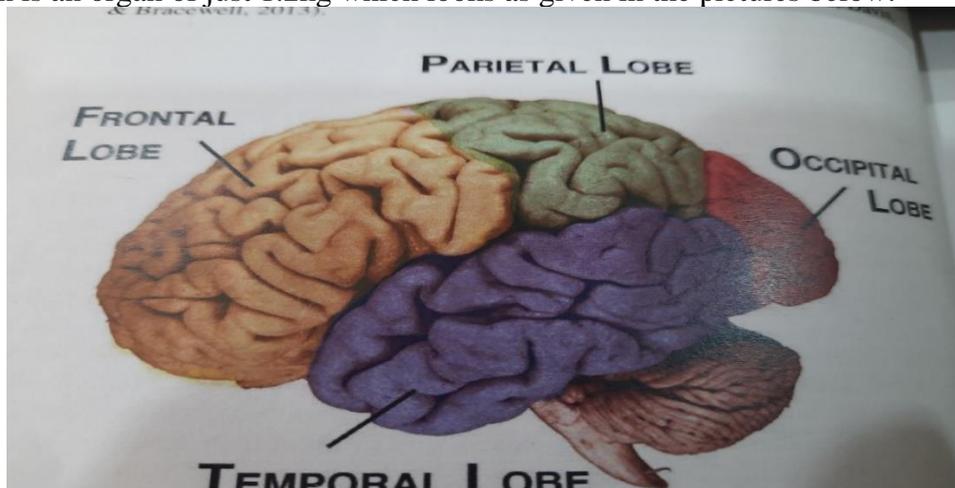


Figure 1:- Brain- the main Cerebral Cortex parts

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The cerebral Cortex is divided into four lobes :

1. Occipital
2. Temporal
3. Parietal
4. Frontal

At **Occipital Lobe**, visual processing occurs. This lobe is vital for visual perception in humans.

At **Temporal Lobe**, higher perceptual functions such as recognizing faces and linking emotions to them are performed. In the front part of the **Temporal Lobe** lies a vital part called **the Amygdala** (see figure 2) which controls the emotional part of human behavior. **Hippocampus** is another important part of The Temporal Lobe. This lays down new memory traces in the Brain.

Parietal Lobe processes touch, muscles, and joint formation in the body. These processes combined with vision and hearing give a balance that gives you an understanding of the world around you —in fact it is the Right Parietal Lobe that provides awareness about the world around you and your physical relationship with worldly objects.

Frontal Lobes perform vital functions like issuing vital motor commands (Motor Cortex). Its other parts are involved in planning actions keeping goals in mind and holding things in memory.

Moving further onto interior Brain parts depicted in Figure 2

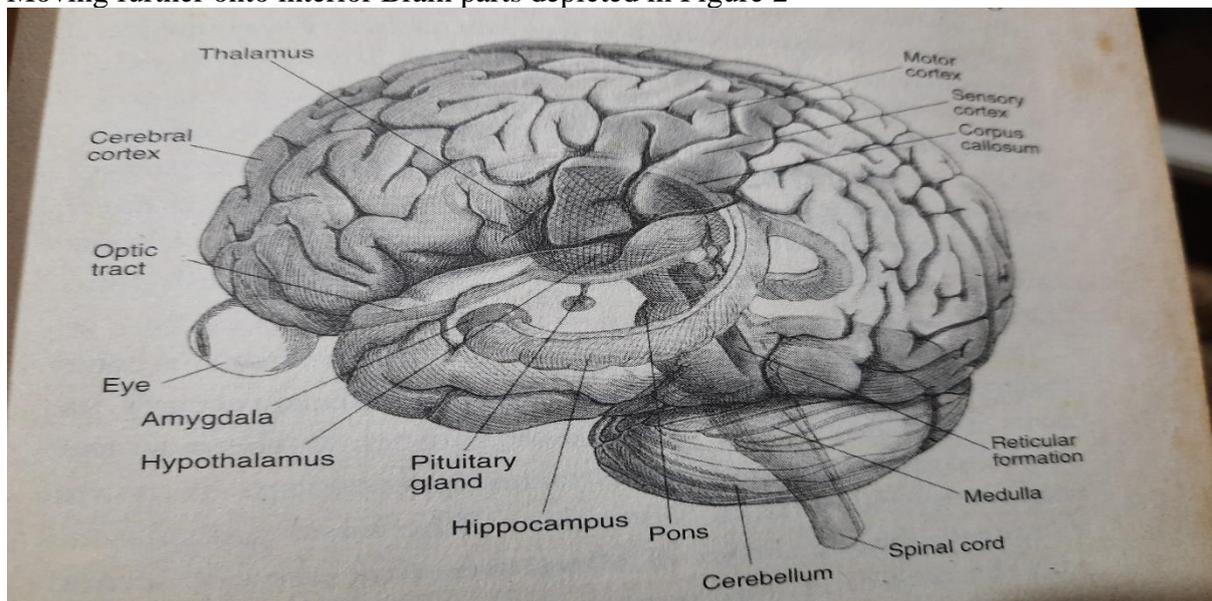


Figure 2: Details of the interior portion of the brain

The Cerebral Cortex of the brain is the seat of higher thoughts where all our highest mental functions are carried out.

The Spinal Cord conducts a steady stream of messages between the brain and the body.

The Brain Stem has three lobes:

1. Medulla
2. Pans and
3. Midbrain

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Medulla and neural clusters on the floor of **Pons** control vital functions like breathing, blood pressure, and body temperature, whereas the **Cerebellum** control fine co-ordination of movements and is also involved in balance, gait, and posture.

The Thalamus which is situated at the top portion of the **Brain Stem** receives its major inputs from sense organs and relays them to the **Sensory Cortex** for more sophisticated processing.

While it is beyond the scope of this paper to capture complete details about perception circuitry in the brain, we summarily state that the perception happens when sensory information from sense organs flow into the brain which has one hundred billion nerve cells (neurons, synapses, etc.) scattered in different parts of the brain forming circuitry and the awareness comes through communication between the nearly infinite cells through their interconnections constituting the circuitry in different portions of the brain. The flow of information happens when neurons encode information electrically and the brief electrical pulses travel along biological cables (axons) that extend from the cell bodies of neurons to connect their input to their outputs with other neurons. Thus, information travels through the neuron circuitry to reach different lobes of the brain where perception processing takes place. The whole process is very complex.

So much so for the understanding of the brain, we shall now see some bizarre perception occurring because of slight damage to some portion of the brain. Human perception which appears so organized and normal turns into highly abnormal and bizarre when even slight damage occurs in some part of the brain.

We know about color blindness where some people are not able to see some color, their brains, simply do not have the ability to see that color but there are cases where a person sees the whole world in black and white. It happens when an area called V4 in the temporal lobe is damaged. This area is processing Color in our vision and the damage to this area drains out colors from our visual system. Apart from missing to see colors all abilities of vision remain intact. How bizarre it would seem when a person is not able to see the blue sky, pink rose, and the colorful world around him/her.

David Eagleman in his book, “Incognito”, talks about the profound impact of even slight damage to brain circuitry on our behavior: -

*“People with a condition called **Prosopagnosia** cannot distinguish between familiar and unfamiliar faces—they recognize based on other cues such as hairlines, gait, and voices to recognize the people they know.*

*There is a brain disorder called **Alien hand Syndrome** which can result from split-brain surgeries. In this disorder, the two hands express conflicting desires e.g., one hand can pick up a newspaper whereas the other hand will slap it back down. A patient in this situation often says he is not doing it is happening by itself. (pp131)*

*Another brain disorder is **Anosognosia** – This term describes a total lack of awareness of impairment, and a typical example is a patient who completely denies his very obvious **paralysis**(pp135)*

On 1-8-1966 Charles Whitman went berserk and started shooting and killing people from the top floor of the University of Texas Tower. After cops killed him, a suicide note was found on him' "I do not really understand myself these days. I am supposed to be an average reasonable

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and intelligent man. However, lately (I cannot recall when it started) I have been a victim of many unusual and irrational thoughts.”

*Doctors studied his brain and discovered that there was a tumor about the diameter of a nickel. The tumor called a **glioblastoma** had blossomed from beneath a structure called the **Thalamus**, impinged on the **hypothalamus**, and compressed a third region, called the **Amygdala**. **The Amygdala** is involved in emotional regulation, especially as regards fear and aggression. It has been researched that damage to this region caused emotional and social disturbances. (pp153)*

*There is a tragic brain disorder called **frontotemporal dementia** in which frontal and temporal lobes degenerate. Patients lose the ability to control the hidden impulses. Through the impulses, they indulge in violating social norms—shoplifting in front of the store manager, removing clothes in public, or being physically or sexually aggressive.*

The lesson learned from various brain disorders is that condition of your brain is central to what you are. Damage to even the small part of the brain can lead to the loss of shockingly specific abilities. The behavior changes with brain disorders and makes a different 'You'.”

The bizarre perception happening due to slight damage in the brain causes a remarkable change in behavior and makes us a different personality altogether when compared to the personality before the unfortunate damage occurred in the brain.

I, now, take you to a strangest mental disorder called, “**Cotard Syndrome**” in which the person has a weird perception of self. During an attack of temporal lobe epileptic seizure; he looks composed otherwise but when enquired about him/her, the reply is that he/ she is a corpse. Here is a conversation between such a patient Yousaf Ali and the doctor at Medical College Hospital at Chennai (source Tell-Tale Brain by V Ramachandran):

“.....*Doctor— What brings you to the hospital?*

Ali-Not much can be done, I am a corpse

Doctor- Ali, where are you?

Ali- At the Medical College, I think I used to be a patient at the Kilpauk Hospital (he was being treated there)

Doctor--- Are you saying that you are dead?

Ali—Yes, I don't exist. You could say I am an empty shell. Sometimes I feel like a ghost that exists in another world.

Doctor—Ali, what are you saying? Are you saying that you may not exist? How do you explain that you are talking to me right now?

Ali appeared confused and a tear started forming in his eyes. 'Well, I am dead and immortal at the same time.'

The above paragraphs gave a glimpse about bizarre perceptions and these leave us bewildered that perception can get so much distorted when a brain part is damaged.

The events described above are all real-life unfortunate events and leave us stunned to witness bizarre perceptions!!...

When the brain is damaged, apart from weird perception, human behavior in other aspects also get strange change.

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In his book V Ramachandran, "Tell-Tale Brain", he goes on to talk about people who do not have damaged brain but are born with an unusual brain e.g., Synesthesia is not a neurological disorder but people with Synesthesia have a surreal blending of sensation, perception, and emotion. Synesthetes (as such people called) experience the ordinary world in an extraordinary way. Some of them see colors associated with numbers—say when they look at digit 7 which is printed in black ink, they will perceive red-colored 7—they simply cannot see black colored 7. He talks about a woman Francesca who when with closed eyes touches Denim, she feels sadness, touches silk to feel the emotion of peace and calm, wax gives her embarrassment and grade 60 sandpaper evokes a sense of guilt in her. Some people visualize different colors with different notes of music. They see colorful sceneries whenever music is played.

Apart from Perception disorders caused by brain damage, other brain damages also affect human behavior.

The Brain damage in what is called Broca's area in the frontal lobes of the brain results in a speech disorder.

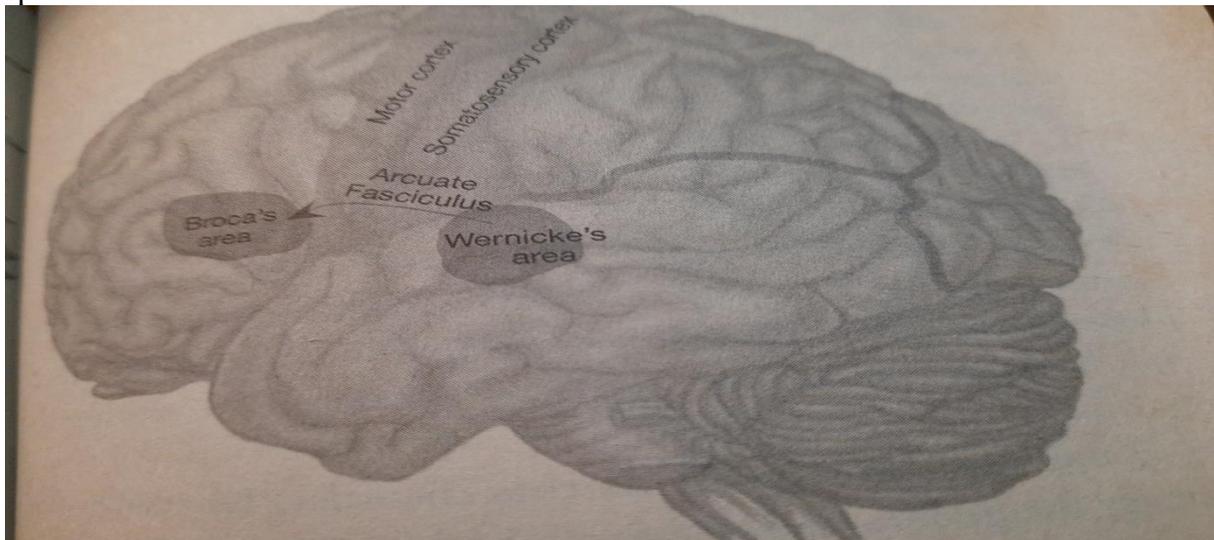


Figure 3: The two language areas in the brain are Broca's area (in Frontal Lobes)

Wernicke's area (in the Temporal Lobe)

A person with this speech impediment finds it very hard to speak simple sentences like, "Please give me a glass of water". The speech disorder is a language deficit resulting in speech impediment-this disorder is called **Broca's Aphasia**, named after a French neurologist **Paul Broca** who discovered this syndrome in 1865. The damage is in the frontal lobe in the region that separates the parietal and front lobes. (book "Tell-Tale Brain")

The disorder is very rare and the visual perception is very distressing.

Another strange behavior emerging from brain damage is "**Somatoparaphrenia**" in which the person disowns a part of the body and tells it does not belong to him/her but to a different person. When the right hemisphere of the brain suffers a stroke, sometimes a rare combination of lesions S1, S2, and SPL in the hemisphere happens which gives rise to this strange syndrome. (Tell-Tale Brain).

Steven Sloman and Philip Fernbach (2017) in their book, "The Knowledge Illusion" describe a patient aged 34 years, suffering from a disorder called **Hyperthymesia** which made her

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remember just about everything she experienced from the age of eleven. She could recall all events for every day between the eleventh year till date. In fact, when she sees a date flashed on TV or elsewhere, she automatically goes back to that day and remembers where she was, what she did, what day of the week it was, and so on.... Bizarre, isn't it?

Even in normal persons without brain damage, bizarre perceptions happen that are known to almost everyone. One such perception is ***Illusion/ Hallucination***, in which a person's mind sees/ perceives non-existent things. Mirage is an example in which a sheet of water is wrongly perceived in a desert or hot road.

V Ramachandran has an unusual explanation about Hallucination. In his book, "Tell-Tale Brain(pp320)", he says,

"Indeed, the line between perceiving and hallucinating is not as crisp as we like to think. In a sense, we are hallucinating all the time. One could regard perception as the act of choosing the one hallucination that best fits the incoming data, which is often fragmentary and fleeting. Both hallucination and real perceptions emerge from the same set of processes. The crucial difference is that when we are perceiving, the stability of external objects and events helps anchor them. When we hallucinate, as when we dream or float in a sensory deprivation tank, objects and events wander off in any direction."

Hallucinations are commonly experienced by us all and we later exclaim 'oh it was not true!!'

Talking about hallucination brings to our mind ***Hypnotism***, which is caused by a person who makes us hallucinate at his will. He makes us feel that we are eating sweets when we are actually having a bite at a potato. Bizarre perceptions are ushered in us by a Hypnotist. However, Hypnotism is widely used in treating patients suffering from psychological issues and is an important tool for a psychiatrist.

Kendra Cherry (2020) gives a history of Hypnotism and gives details about Hypnotism as follows:

History of Hypnosis

The use of hypnotic-like trance states dates back thousands of years, but hypnosis began to grow during the late 18th-century from the work of a physician named Franz Mesmer. The practice got off to a poor start thanks to Mesmer's mystical views, but interest eventually shifted to a more scientific approach.

Hypnotism became more important in the field of psychology in the late 19th-century and was used by Jean-Martin Charcot to treat women experiencing what was then known as hysteria. This work influenced Sigmund Freud and the development of psychoanalysis.

More recently, there have been a number of different theories to explain exactly how hypnosis works. One of the best-known theories is Hilgard's neo-dissociation theory of hypnosis.

According to Hilgard, people in a hypnotic state experience a split consciousness in which there are two different streams of mental activity. While one stream of consciousness responds to the hypnotist's suggestions, another dissociated stream processes information outside of the hypnotized individual's conscious awareness.

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Details about Hypnotism

Hypnosis is a trance-like mental state in which people experience increased attention, concentration, and suggestibility. While hypnosis is often described as a sleep-like state, it is better expressed as a state of focused attention, heightened suggestibility, and vivid fantasies.

People in a hypnotic state often seem sleepy and zoned out, but in reality, they are in a state of hyper-awareness.

While there are many myths and misconceptions, hypnosis is a very real process that can be used as a therapeutic tool. Hypnosis has been shown to have medical and therapeutic benefits, most notably in the reduction of pain and anxiety. It has even been suggested that hypnosis can reduce the symptoms of dementia.

Types of Hypnosis

There are a few different ways that hypnosis can be delivered:

- 1. Guided hypnosis:*** *This form of hypnosis involves the use of tools such as recorded instructions and music to induce a hypnotic state. Online sites and mobile apps often utilize this form of hypnosis.*
- 2. Hypnotherapy:*** *Hypnotherapy is the use of hypnosis in psychotherapy and is practiced by licensed physicians and psychologists to treat conditions including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and eating disorders.¹*
- 3. Self-hypnosis:*** *Self-hypnosis is a process that occurs when a person self-induces a hypnotic state. It is often used as a self-help tool for controlling pain or managing stress.²*

As stated in the above narration, hypnotism does alter the perceptions of patients through the suggestions of a hypnotist and can be used as a therapeutic tool for alleviating pain and assists in curing mental disorders.

It is said that a person in a hypnotic state, on a suggestion from the hypnotist, can keep his arm immersed in iced water for a long period comfortably whereas a person in a normal state, naturally, gets shocked and withdraws arm quickly out of water. In a hypnotic state, perceptions get altered as per the suggestions of the hypnotist.

Indeed it is a bizarre aspect of perception!!

In discussions so far, we have discussed Perceptions for which we have some known cause. Scientifically perception happens through the use of our five senses: Seeing, Hearing, Touching, Smelling, and Tasting. Our eyes, ears, skin, nose, and tongue; the sense organs pass on signals to our brain and we perceive things. This is the normal understanding of Perception. There are of course bizarre variations though. It is scientifically thought that we cannot perceive without the above five senses.

But most of us have heard about the proverbial "sixth sense", some call it intuition, others name it hunches but we feel that occasionally we perceive things without using the normal five senses. Are these perceived through a sixth sense? Does sixth sense exist for which we have, currently, no knowledge?

Let me take you on a tour where events happened and were perceived externally i.e., without the use of the known five senses. There are a vast number of such events that have happened

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and are still happening across the world and we are wonderstruck as we do not know how these happen.

Erica Simon narrates innumerable real-life incidents that point to the continuation of life after death, where the discarnate spirits have communicated to their living relatives. I reproduce some of the events:

Second lieutenant Lesile Poynter was killed on 25th October 1918. The evening at nine o'clock, his sister, miles away in England, had just settled herself in bed when she saw him enter her room. He bent over and kissed her, a kiss which she "did not feel," and then stood up and looked at her, smiling. "I have never seen anyone look so intensely happy in life," She said, "this is one of the things that makes me know there's a second life or he would not have looked like that." As she watched, he faded away. Two weeks later a War Office Telegram informed the family of his death on that date. (Erica Simon, 2006, Life after Death, pp15,16)

Another incident from the same book:

On the night of June in Indianapolis, Mrs. Gladys Watson was awakened from a deep sleep by someone quietly but insistently calling her name. As she roused and sat up, she was astonished to see her paternal grandfather, to whom she was devoted, leaning towards her. He looked perfectly real and lifelike. There was a pleasant smile on his face, "Don't be frightened," he reassured her in a warm, affectionate voice. "It's only me, I've just died." Mrs. Watson found tears starting in her eyes and she instinctively reached across the bed to rouse her sleeping husband. "This is how they'll bury me," her grandfather said indicating the dark suit and black bow tie he was wearing. He added: "I just wanted to tell you I've been waiting to go ever since the mother was taken." Gladys Watson could see her grandfather looked as solid as though he were physically present in the room. And she heard his voice not with an inner ear but as though he were actually speaking to her.

Mrs. Watson shook her husband again, but the apparition had vanished before he awakened. He told her that she had simply been dreaming and that her grandfather was alive and well with her parents in Wilmington. Because she was so upset, he decided to prove it by phoning them--- only to learn that his wife's grandfather had died at home a few minutes before. (pp 16,17)

These afterlife **Apparition** incidents leave us wonderstruck and lead us to think, "**How could this happen**"

Dean Radin (2006) in his book, "Entangled Minds" (pp21,22) gives an incident in the life of Mr. Hans Berger who gave the world "EEG":

One morning, while a young boy, Hans was on horseback during a training exercise, his horse suddenly reared. Hans was tossed into the air and he landed hard on the road, directly in the path of a fast approaching, horse-drawn cannon. He realized with horror that he was about to be crushed, but the driver of the cannon managed to stop the horses in time. The accident left Hans thoroughly shaken but without serious injury.

At the same very moment, many miles away in his family's home, his older sister was suddenly overwhelmed with an ominous certainty that something bad had happened to Hans. She anxiously insisted that her father sent him a telegram. Hans on receiving the telegram, he knew that his feelings of intense fear had somehow reached his sister.

Many years later, Hans wrote, "This is a case of spontaneous telepathy in which at a time of mortal danger, I transmitted my thoughts and my sister, who was particularly close to me, acted as the receiver".

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Telepathy, a connection between two minds is not possible as per current laws of science and the incident makes us wonder, **‘How could this happen?’**

Radin talks about Precognition about the worst terrorist 9/11 attack on World Trade Centre Towers in the USA on September 9, 2001, where the twin towers were brought to dust by the crashing of an airplane into the building by the terrorists, killing many people. There were more than 14000 cases of precognition of the event were reported and were collected at Rhine Research Centre. One such case is given below:

On September 10, 2001 midnight, Dr. MacGregor was on a flight and managed to occupy vacant seats and tried to sleep as it was a long flight. In his own words, " I emptied my mind of all thoughts, focused my attention on the muted roar of engines, and lay very still—more awake than ever.

In the evening it was almost imperceptible, the strange feeling that started to come over me. It began with an awareness of how absolutely still my body was. I wondered vaguely why it was so perfectly motionless and felt a strong urge to move it. The more I tried to move, however, the more I detected a kind of resistance. Something hard and unyielding surrounded my body, immobilizing it. Yes, I felt it clearly now, I was encased and held fast in concrete... The feeling of being imprisoned in concrete intensified—with it now was a sense of dread. I could not turn my head or move my arms or legs or expand my lungs with a deep breath of air. I was hopelessly trapped and on the verge of claustrophobic terror. And then the pain began. For the concrete was moving. From all sides it was pressing it on me, tighter and tighter, squeezing me with unbearable force. My body was about to be crushed. There was nothing to hold on to, nowhere to run to. In another moment my life would be over...

It was a long trip from Seattle to the island where we lived. We arrived home at 6 am on September 11.

Three thousand miles away, the World Trade Tower Centre was bursting in flames after hit by airplanes. Thousands of lives ended that morning in the crush of concrete!!!!!!...

The precognition on such a large scale leaves us overwhelmed with the question, **"How could this happen?"**

A **Clairvoyant** incident is reported by Dr. Joseph Murphy, (2014) in his book, *Psychic Perception—the magic of Extrasensory Power* (pp 10):

*I took a trip on one of the fishing boats in Hawai and on the boat was a boy about 12 years old. While having a conversation with him I mentioned that I was writing a book psychic principle and immediately he narrated his own incident—he told me that a month ago when his father died on the island of Oahu, a few hundred miles away, he knew it and ran in and told his mother, " Mom, papa is dead. I saw him and talked to him." His father's death was later confirmed by long-distance phone. The little boy had a **clairvoyant vision** of his father, who appeared to him and said, 'Goodbye'.*

The incident, no doubt, is perplexing to blurt out, **"How could this happen!"**

Joseph Murphy narrates another queer and interesting incident:

A widow visited me last year, saying that her husband, shortly before his demise, had told her that he had made out a new will leaving all of his estates to her. But his lawyer knew nothing about it and he had a will made ten years back. She had searched everywhere but could not find the new will.

I suggested to her that she claimed, 'Infinite intelligence knows where the will is and reveals to me.'

She started praying and after three or four days of praying, she distinctly heard her husband's voice in the kitchen where she was doing ironing: 'Look up the 45th chapter of Isaiah.' She

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did and there she found the new will, attested by two witnesses, all in legal phraseology, dated and signed.

The **after-death communication** (ADC) from a dead person is beyond belief – **“How could this happen?”**

Abraham Lincoln, some have said, was a clairvoyant who accurately predicted his own death. Whether this is true or just a coincidence is debated; however, the facts seem to tell a very interesting story.

Just days before Lincoln was shot, he told his wife of a dream that he had:

“He was woken up by the sound of crying and went into the East Room of the White House, where a casket was laid open. There was a throng of mourners as well as several men guarding the casket. When he asked who was in the casket, one of the soldiers told him that it was the President, who had been killed by an assassin.”

Three days after telling his wife this dream, Lincoln was shot and killed by John Wilkes Booth. (<https://biography.yourdictionary.com/abraham.lincoln>)

This is the most profound incident of **Clairvoyant Premonition** – **“How could this happen?”**

We have discussed above several incidents which defy logic and their perception cannot be explained by our known five senses and these are not normal events, hence, these are called Paranormal events.

Be it a case of Telepathy, Clairvoyance, Remote viewing, Precognition/ Premonition, Apparition manifestation, Out of Body Experiences, After death communication, or Reincarnation --- all these paranormal events are perceived without the use of the known five senses.

The Paranormal events are bizarre and are happening in all parts of the world and mankind is simply bewildered as no one is able to find an answer and the Question, **“How could this happen?”** is vexing not only to ordinary people but even to the specialist Parapsychological Researchers who are researching to find the answer.

Parapsychology is the field of study for the Paranormal Events and it is researching all the above aspects which have been grouped into the groups--ESP (Extra Sensory Perception), PK (Psychokinesis), and Survival after death.

A great debate is going on across Globe, whether these paranormal events are Myth or a Reality. Many skeptics believe that such events are nothing but fraud and are being enacted by cheaters/ tricksters. Others believe in God and say that these are the strange ways of God's expression. Some believe that some of us have mystical power and this power makes the events happen. No one knows how these happen—hence the big question, "Is Paranormality a myth or reality.”

All the above are bizarre incidents of Perception which are intriguing the world as these are not related to the known five senses. Research is going on for over a century on these bizarre field of perception.

Telepathy, precognition, and Clairvoyance are grouped under the name Extra Sensory Perception or ESP. Psychokinesis deals with the impact of mind over matter—many of you must have heard the Spoon Bending incident in which Mr. Uri Geller bends the spoon without

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even touching it; simply by staring it and using mind power. In Mahabharata, Shakuni was able to make the dice bring out the desired numbers on a throw of dice, which again is a case of psychokinesis. The study of ESP, Psychokinesis, and Life after death incidents constitute a field of study known as Parapsychology (i.e., beyond psychology). Psychology as we know studies human behavior in normal parlance and Parapsychology studies human behavior from the perspective of human behavior related to paranormal phenomenon.

I think we have covered vast areas where we witness bizarre perceptions. The bizarre perceptions discussed earlier were all about the events which had a logical scientific explanation—some were due to the mind becoming blind to objects which were looked at but not perceived and then we saw many instances where Pareidolia was at work. Furthermore, we realized that the brain functioning had a strong correlation to Perceptual aberrations. All these were bizarre but could be explained scientifically but the narration is the last part of the paper leaves us wonderstruck and we exclaim, “How could these happen”

CONCLUSION

I conclude the paper with a hope that Parapsychology with help of Neuroscience, Physics, Medicine, and Psychology will advance through joint research which is happening in several institutions abroad, and one day the researchers will find answers to these intriguing, baffling perception of paranormal incidents. I look forward to that day!!....

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Conflict of Interest

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