



EPISTEMIC CATEGORIES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

The Phenomenology of the Integration of Knowledge in the Consciousness

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INTRODUCTION

How would it be possible to constitute appropriate epistemological foundations for the research of the phenomena of consciousness? This perspective would need a basis capable of including a rather broad phenomenological spectrum. Somehow, this spectrum should include cognitive phenomena in general, altered states of consciousness, extra-sensory perception, and many others. Most likely, the epistemological basis of the science of consciousness is related to the roots of the primary construction of knowledge that enables the emergence of the very phenomenon of consciousness.

“EPISTEMIC CATEGORY” is proposed here as a *noetic concept* encompassing hypothetical and functional elements in an attempt to identify the most elementary, indispensable and generating categories of knowledge of the phenomenon of consciousness.

Most categories initially identified are already known in philosophy and science. The challenge is to re-examine the relevance of the already-known categories and verify if there are more categories in the same condition.

OBJECTIVE

This investigation proposes the identification of categories of phenomena indispensable for the constitution of primary types of knowledge, supposedly part of what is thought to be the consciousness.

The relevance is the possibility of establishing a common research base for the phenomena that are currently treated in different areas such as extra-sensory perception, cognitive sciences, and phenomenology itself, among others.

CRITERIA FOR EPISTEMIC STRUCTURING

1. The identification of epistemic units (e.g., the mental image).
2. Criteria for forming the epistemic category.

THE PERSPECTIVE OF RESEARCH INTEGRATION THROUGH THE “EPISTEMIC ANALYTICAL”

The possibility of investigating *epistemic categories* leads to the search for the *epistemic taxon*, the element of concrete existence in the structure of consciousness. In this way, the *epistemological* investigation can create an *ontological* and *taxological* matrix. Such scientific guidance through an *integrated analysis* seems to have the potential to signal priority problems in the research of consciousness’s manifestation and knowledge.

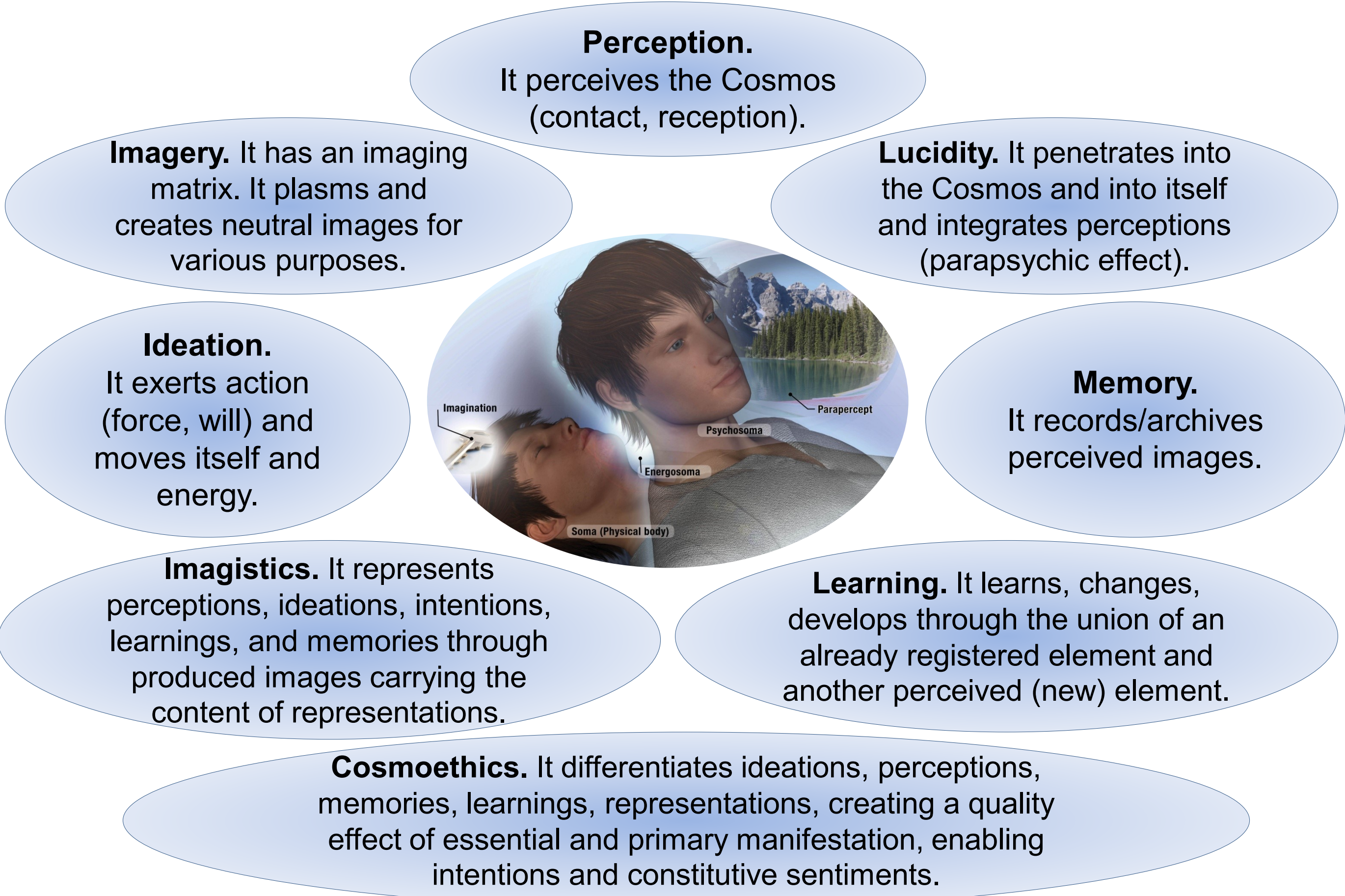
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CONSTITUTIVE CRITERIA FOR THE EPISTEMIC CATEGORIES

1. **Category.** The phenomenon must constitute a clearly distinct function from others in the field of cognitive functions. For example, perception is not memory; memory is not imagination, among others.
2. ***Sine qua non.*** The phenomenon must refer to a function that without which knowledge does not constitute itself or cease to exist. For example, without perception, no knowledge is constituted.
3. **Taxon.** In the supposed category must be found an element with a primary function in cognition and with the possibility of representing classification unit. The percept, for example, can be considered a taxon of real existence in the subtle cognitive physiology of consciousness.
4. **Attribute.** The taxon must develop a function capable of attributing quality to the manifestation of consciousness.

Perception is a consensual attribute that makes it possible to distinguish sub-phenomena. Perception, memory, and imagination may be ***examples of epistemic categories.*** The ***percept***, as the perceived mental image, is the ***taxon*** of the perception. The ***engram***, as an archived mental image, is the ***taxon*** of the memory. The ***imago***, as the represented mental image is the ***taxon*** of the imagination. Other categories can be reverified. ***Other phenomenological entities may be identified.***

EPISTEMIC CATEGORIES. Consciousness is considered here a “*noetic being*”:



EPISTEMIC ANALYTICAL			
Epistemic Category	Epistemic Taxon	Categoremic Attribute	Content Type of Knowledge
Perception	Percept	Perceptibility	Interpsychic (<i>Interthosenic</i>)
Ideation	Thosene (Thought + Sentiment + Energy)	Ideativity	Acting / Agency / Skilled
Imagery	Mental image	Imageticity	Plastic
Memory	Engram	Mnemonicity	Experiential
Lucidity	Con	Penetrability	Cosmoconscious
Learning	Subsumpt	Associativity	Acquisitive
Imagistics	Imago	Imaginativity	Creative / Representational
Cosmoethics	Cosmoethicon	Cosmoethicity	Cosmoethical