

A STUDY RELATING PREDOMINANT
DIRECTION OF CONJUGATE-LATERAL-EYE
MOVEMENT TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PERSONALITY

by 1050 710

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the most awesome frontier left for man to conquer, is that of his own mind. Little by little, man is progressing into what has been the dark and unknown depths of the human brain.

One key discovery in this area, only recently making its full impact upon our culture, is the knowledge that the human brain functions not entirely as a whole, but to a certain extent as two independent halves. "...each hemisphere seems to have its own separate and private sensations: its own perceptions, its own concepts and its own impulses to act, with related volitional, cognitive and learning experiences." (Sperry 1968)

Evidence from several sources has established that the left hemisphere is specialized in the following functions:

- analytic thinking and logic.
- reasoning through division or partition of phenomenon.
- the processing of information sequentially.
- verbal activity and linguistic thought.
- the use of words as opposed to the possession of words.
- intellectual ability.
- temporally organized successive events.

While the right hemisphere is specialized in the following functions:

- visual spatial tasks

- simultaneous and primary spatial groups.
- understanding of music and art forms.
- diffuse processing of information.
- simultaneous grasp of related but differing phenomena.
- integration of material in a simultaneous fashion.
- reasoning through integration and consideration of the totality of a phenomena. (Ornstein 1973)

Even with this added awareness that there are two distinctly different methods of thought available to each of us, we in the Western world have long clung to the traditional, logical mode of thought to the exclusion and indeed, near strangulation of the other existing intuitive mode of thought. Our culture does not stress the aconceptual, present-oriented, intuitive mode of thought, associated with the arts, religion and music; but rather puts a premium on verbal and intellectual ability.

However, there are indications that this lopsided preoccupation of one mode of thought over the other, is now on the downswing, and that a more dualistic conception of two equally dominant types of thought is gaining prominence. The intuitive mode of thought, too long ignored, is now building acceptance as a separate, but uniquely superior component in certain aspects of functioning. Three factors have been listed as contributing to this new philosophy: 1) First of all, the recent surge of interest in the traditional Eastern philosophies, Sufism, Zen, Yoga, and Transcendental Meditation. 2) Secondly, the impact of the drug culture which has as an underlying premise, always held experience and intuitive knowledge in

the highest regard, and 3) thirdly, the rising acceptance of the field of para-psychology as a respectable and professional area of inquiry within the field of psychology.

Statement of the Problem

This study was designed to investigate the use of a simple eye movement phenomenon as a possible indicant of hemispheric dominance within an individual subject.

The subjects were classified on the basis of a left or right direction of the conjugate-lateral-eye movement, (CLEM) and statistically compared on the basis of certain known personality variables. These personality variables were measured through the use of the following tests:

- (a) tendencies of vocational preference as measured by Holland's Vocational Preference Inventory (VPI).
- (b) the relative prominence of basic interests or motives in personality as measured by Allport, Vernon, and Lindsey's Study of Values (SOV).

Importance of the Study

In general this study is of value in merely emphasizing and promoting the acceptance of the theory of hemispheric duality.

Robert Ornstein, (1973) author of The Psychology of Consciousness points out, that one of the major tasks facing psychologists is to study the two complementary modes of thought and reach an understanding of the use and applications of each in our culture.

Secondly, if we can isolate the physiological correlates of each mode of thought, we then have the basis from which to begin the