



The self cognitive apprehension in Burkina environnement

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, many researches have been made in the framework of a certain self-cognitive apprehension.

Indeed in every day life, individuals have tendency to compare themselves with others to be more conformable to the standard of their environment in the only purpose to give to another, a good image of themselves. These individuals develop strategies which will going to allow them to be different from the others, but by staying congruous to the standard of the given situation.

They are tending to characterize the others and to show themselves close to the other.

KEYWORDS : Self, Cognition, Disproportion, Conformity

Introduction

Various works on the perception and the contribution of the cognitive psychology have permitted to know what the individual reacts, what he is searching to adapt by his attitude. This is not only founded by the objective material fact of a given situation, but rather by his cognitive activity.

By the cognitive action, the individual developps strategies then modifies his behaviours to make up a good image to stay conformable to the standard in sturdiness in the social situation in which he is involved. By modifying the cognitive balance, the individuals intercede with new behaviours, new representations in the determination of the cognitive universe; in other words, new strategies. These social cognitive order strategies are both theoretical and practical.

I - Theoretical background and hypothesis

In a social situation, most individuals have tendency to develop social cognitive strategies to show themselves as being more in conformity with the standards that the others are not. This doesn't prevent them to make difference with the others by giving hem good image.

We are going to ask ourselves in this short experience of comparison process between oneself and another. It is an experience in which we have an independent variable with two modalities:

- Define the perspective disproportion or cognitive for an individual to compare himself with a group of individuals and motionless objects, for what concerns a first experimental group.
- Look what attitude a group of individuals may have an experience made with a second experimental group.

There is an implication of the subject in the two experimental groups, which is in connexion with one hypothesis already developed by J.P.Codol (Codol 1971).

This hypothesis, known as "self upper conformity phenomena" says that every individual involved in a situation, with a normative value, will get tendency to show himself as being more in the standard than the others.

By "self upper conformity" we understand here, the phenomena observed in a certain numbers of experiences by which, the individuals have generally tendency, when they compare themselves with another to be in the better standards of the situation than the others.

To test this hypothesis Codol made an experience of perceptive estimations of physical stimulus in which the accent is put upon the norm of exactitude and his results have certified his hypotheses.

We then conclude that the phenomena of self conformity seems to have a general character. It also leads us to establish our hypothesis upon this phenomena of self conformity in Burkinabe urban environment.

By applying this hypothesis in the two experimental groups, we predict that the relationships between oneself and another will be prac-

tically different, which explains the existence of the perceptive disproportion of the subjects, due to the fact that each individual will develop his own social cognitive strategies in the evaluation of the distances which divides him from other persons.

II - The experimentation

The scheme is composed of two experimental groups containing each fifty male subjects. The schema we propose is the waiting hall of the train station of Ouagadougou which size is 33 meters over 13 meters. It contains six seats and two gates indicated by X and Y. Six persons (indicated by the letters A, B, C, D, E & F) are sitting and waiting on the seats. Without any tools of measure, we ask the subject A to estimate the distance in meters which separates him from the other five persons (B, C, D, E and F) and each of the two gates (X and Y). This is the experience made with the subjects of group 1.

In the second experimental group, the other five persons (B, C, D, E and F) don't hold any tools of measure and of each of them is invited to evaluate in meters the distances which divides the two gates (X & Y) from the subject A.

After having collected all the data in each group, we calculated the averages of the measures evaluated by the subjects of each group.

III - The results

Group 1: The effects are the averages of measures that we made
 From A to B = 8.35 meters
 From A to C = 6.16 meters
 From A to D = 4.35 meters
 From A to E = 8.30 meters
 From A to F = 10.01 meters
 From A to X = 10.07 meters
 From A to Y = 8.01 meters.

Experimental group 2. These are the averages we got :

From B to A = 8.19 meters
 From C to A = 5.87 meters
 From D to A = 4.18 meters
 From E to A = 7.80 meters
 From F to A = 9.44 meters
 From X to A = 10.04 meters
 From Y to A = 8.03 meters.

A first analyze of the averages of this experience certifies partly our onset hypothesis:

- There is little difference with the averages which have relationships between A and the two gates in the two experimental groups.
- On the other hand, according to the six persons (A and the other five persons), there is a diversity of the averages values, expressing the need of every subject to get tendency to perceive himself as being in the situation of comparison more than the others (which corroborates our hypothesis).

IV - Discussion

The goal is to test the existence of upper conformity phenomena in a process of comparison of the averages evaluated by the two ex-

perimental groups. Indeed, the retained exam of the averages shows for the six persons (A, B, C, D, E and F) that, there is in the subject, a tendency to perceive himself as being in a higher conformity of comparison than the others. We notice a clear difference in the averages evaluated by the subject A. This shows the existence of various strategies used by A in every evaluation and it justifies at the same time the perceptive disproportion of the latest.

Against every person who is sitting, the subject A adopts a particular distance, an average which is different from the others. He creates a new strategy which permits him to estimate the distance that separates him from each of the persons B, C, D, E and F. For every distance evaluated there is an emergence of new social cognitive strategies. The subject A doesn't use the same strategy to evaluate for example the distance between him and it's the reason which enables us to explain the perceptive disproportion linked to a great diversity of the average of that measures. We have tendency to perceive ourselves as being more close or more distant from such person or another.

A, in the group 1, by imputing himself the highest average, shows himself to be in a better situation of comparison than the others. By comparing the averages of A to the other five persons of A with those of the five persons of A, we effectively notice this difference of values, with A who possesses the highest averages. We can even say that each of the other five persons uses different strategies in the evaluation of the measures. B has his proper strategy to compare himself with A, C, D, E and F. They also have their strategies which are proper to them and this permits them to evaluate differently their distances from each of them. It explains one more again this perceptive disproportion and expresses the desire of every one to make difference with another by remaining in the highest way of comparison. It certifies much the presence of the self higher conformity phenomena, because every subject has this tendency to show his proper performance as being the best when we compare the averages in the two groups.

Likewise, the differences of attitudes observed, whether the comparison is made according to the same sex or not, explain clearly in the context of the self higher conformity hypothesis. It permits us to say that in every situation of social comparison, the tendency that each individual has to compare himself with another expresses by the constitution of self image according to which everyone perceives himself to be in more harmony than the others. The meaning of the comparison brings out every subject to believe himself as removed or more close than the other persons. Every individual uses his proper strategies and they serve him as reference to evaluate such or another distance to distinguish himself with the others through the sense he perceives about the comparison.

However it doesn't seem to be the same case concerning the relations between individual and objects and vice versa. Indeed, we notice that there is no practically difference between the averages from A to X (10.07m) and those from X to A (10.04m). It's the same case with the averages from A to Y (10.07 m) and those from Y to A (10.03m).

This is opposed to our hypothesis because the comparison of averages (from A to X and from X to A), (from A to Y and from Y to A) doesn't show us a true difference, then we cannot speak about social disproportion between the individual and objects. This notice allows us to say that the phenomena of conformity is applied to a process of social comparison between oneself and another.

A, will use in this case the same strategy to evaluate the distance which divides him from X and vice versa (from A to X = 10.07 m and from X to A = 10.04m). He will maintain the same strategy in these evaluations with Y (from A to Y = 8.01 m and from Y to A = 8.03m).

Conclusion

We have showed how the individuals had tendency to present themselves to be in a better situation of comparison than the others, which permits us to test the existence of our hypothesis based on the phenomena of self upper conformity.

It is also allowed us to explain the presence of the perceptive disproportion. We may then say that the sense of comparison proper to everyone is enough to give an explanation to this perceptive disproportion. We notice that the perceptive disproportion can be only apply in a process of social comparison between oneself and another.

Finally, the phenomena of self upper conformity plays a role, not only in a situation between oneself and another but also in the situation when no-one is directly implied: the need of self positive image (to perceive himself as being more close of the given situation) must fix up to the absence of another. This can justify the values from A to A and Y.

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