Thinking, Language, and Intelligence

Chapter 8
Thinking

- Solving Problems - algorithms
- Making Decisions and Judgments – confirmation bias
- Assessing Risk
- The Perils and Power of Intuition
- Blink
Thinking

- “Blink” - Malcolm Gladwell
- Unconscious force in decisions = “adaptive unconscious”
- Snap judgments
- “Thin Slices”
Language

- Language Development
- Thinking without Language
- Animal Thinking and Language
Film - Power of Words

(vimeo)
Dyslexia / Dysphasia

- Neurological disorder –
  - Genetic or right brain dominance
- Socially defined
- Strategies -
  - Comprehension, not speed is important
  - “Fixing it” not right idea
  - Times of day important
  - Work schedule important
  - Practice writing and spelling
  - Tests’ accommodation
  - Use resource center
Intelligence - General Information

- First devised to identify slow learners
- Two issues -
  - Whether IQ tests favor whites
  - H vs E controversy
- Basic elements of intelligence
- Creativity - a separate form of intelligence -
  - Unique ideas
  - IQ of about 120
Intelligence - General Information

- **Research:** Gordon Hodson, a psychologist at Brock University in Ontario, Canada.

- **People with low intelligence:**
  - Hold prejudiced attitudes as adults.
  - Gravitate toward socially conservative ideologies which stress hierarchy and resistance to change and offer structure and order.
  - Corresponds with racism and homophobia.
  - Attracts those who have trouble with people of other races and sexual orientation.

- **Important:** average over large groups.
Measuring Intelligence

- Mental age
- Intelligence quotient (IQ) score
- Tests -
  - Individual: Stanford-Binet; Wechsler
  - Group
  - Achievement
  - Aptitude
- Reliability
- Validity
- Standardization (norms)
Kinds of Intelligence

- Fluid intelligence
- Crystallized intelligence
- Practical intelligence
- Savant syndrome
Variations in Intelligence

- Intellectual disability = 69 IQ and below
  - Slower encoding; strong storage
  - Independent functioning
- Intellectually gifted = 130 and above
  - Twenty per cent of students not graduating from high school are gifted
  - Most prevalent characteristics / behaviors of giftedness
- Problems of being gifted
Heredity vs. Environment

- Culture-fair IQ tests
- Relative influence of H vs E – adoption studies
- Heritability
- Scarr & Weinberg research
- Stanford longitudinal study of gifted
Group Differences in Test Scores

- Ethnic Differences – between individuals = reflection of genetic differences; between groups = environmental differences

- Gender Differences – greater male variability = more often in special education classes – talk later; stutter more

- Biased Test Questions
Daniel Goleman- Emotional Intelligence

- It’s the master aptitude.
- Important because it enables one to deal well with his own and other’s feelings.
Nature of Emotional Intelligence

- Definition of emotional intelligence -
  - Knowing one’s emotions
  - Managing one’s emotions appropriately
  - Motivating oneself in service of a goal
  - Recognizing emotions in others = empathy
    - taps into mirror neurons
  - Handling relationships well
Emotional Intelligence

- Alexithymia
- Emotions often unconscious
- Role of amygdala in early childhood
- Art of soothing selves
- Impulsivity
- Flow
Emotional Intelligence Applied

- Intimate enemies - marriage
- Troubled marriages
- Sign of dominance
- Stonewalling and criticism
- Cycle of revenge
- Mind and medicine – toxic emotions