

## PD24 - Alternate Translations

Post by “Godfrey” of September 9, 2021 at 1:42 AM

This was a book that I took notes on, which I rarely do. Here are some notes and quotes (italicized) regarding "concepts":

*“Everything you perceive around you is represented by concepts in your brain.”* This is how it reduces the tremendous volume of input to manageable information. The brain predicts sensory signals before they arrive and edits them to make them into useful representations of the world.

*“Thus, concepts aren’t fixed definitions in your brain, and they’re not prototypes of the most typical or frequent instances. Instead, your brain has many instances—of cars, of dot patterns, of sadness, or anything else—and it imposes similarities between them, in the moment, according to your goal in a given situation. For example, your usual goal for a vehicle is to use it for transportation, so if an object meets that goal for you, then it’s a vehicle, whether it’s a car, a helicopter, or a sheet of plywood with four wheels nailed on.”*

*“Concepts are not static but remarkably malleable and context-dependent, because your goals can change to fit the situation.”*

When you categorize, you are creating similarities in the world, not finding them.

*“When your brain needs a concept, it constructs one on the fly, mixing and matching from a population of instances from your past experience, to best fit your goals in a particular situation.”*

*“Without a concept for “Fear,” you cannot experience fear.”*

*“Any healthy human can experience low-arousal, unpleasant affect. But you cannot experience sadness with all of its cultural meaning, appropriate actions, and other functions of emotion unless you have the concept ‘Sadness.’”*