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Philosophy 303E

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Consciousness

Having the cognitive capability to react to one's environment was one of the leading topics in the Ethics club. We discussed issues regarding whether we are conscious. Questions such as, are we self-conscious? Do we have a subconscious? And does our conscious make us unique? were few of the many questions that arose. Of course, coming to a philosophical conclusion, one must first define what it means to be conscious. To be conscious is to be aware of our surroundings. The concept of "I think. Therefore, I am" is also determined by how we respond to our surroundings. This response ensues that we are awake and capable of making sensible interactions with others. To be self-conscious is an awareness of oneself whether it be our appearance, our actions, or simply our own existence.

The process of our conscious develops as we develop. Further, attaining knowledge of what it means to be aware of ourselves and our surroundings by also addressing our feelings and actions justifies one's capacity to be self aware. According to English Oxford Living Dictionaries, to be subconscious is "of or concerning the part of the mind of which one is not fully aware but which influences one's actions and feelings" (Oxford Dictionaries). It is the idea of having another eye to look at ourselves or our passive self. Hypothetically, consider the scenario of being a passenger in a car looking at the driver we created. We are both the passenger and the driver except the driver is oblivious to the passenger in the aspect of the subconscious

not being visually present and the subconscious is only mentally capable of impacting the driver's decisions.

On the other hand, the topic of having a reason to doubt our reality surfaced. We discussed the topic of feeling like our dreams are more real than our reality. Thus, questioning if our conscious is blurred with our dreams and concluding we have either an objective or a subjective reality based on individuals perception of reality. The majority of the time, individuals formulate an opinion based off what they have experienced in their life and the type of environment they were influenced by. Because of this, we can't conclusively yield to objective experiences because each experience is subjective. However, how we gather information from other individual's subjective experiences helps to evaluate objectiveness.

Moreover, a key term discussed during this session was the Constancy Hypothesis. In reference to having an objective reality, this is the idea that an external object will always or consistently elicit the same response to the person, meaning how we perceive things affects our reality such as, how we feel about objects and what they do to us. During this discussion, I was unaware of what it meant to have an objective reality. As I conducted more research on this topic, I questioned if an objective reality is a collection of things that we are sure exist independently of us, how can we compare how we feel towards an object (s), based on our perception of reality, if feelings are a part of us. Overall, our conscious reflects the human conditions capacity. Without this, we would be ignorant of our own existence that characterizes key events and situations such as, our growth, development, emotions and aspirations.

Works Cited

- English Oxford Living Dictionaries. "Subconscious | Definition of Subconscious in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, 2018, en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/subconscious.
- Ethics Club Lecture. "Consciousness." 4 December 2018.