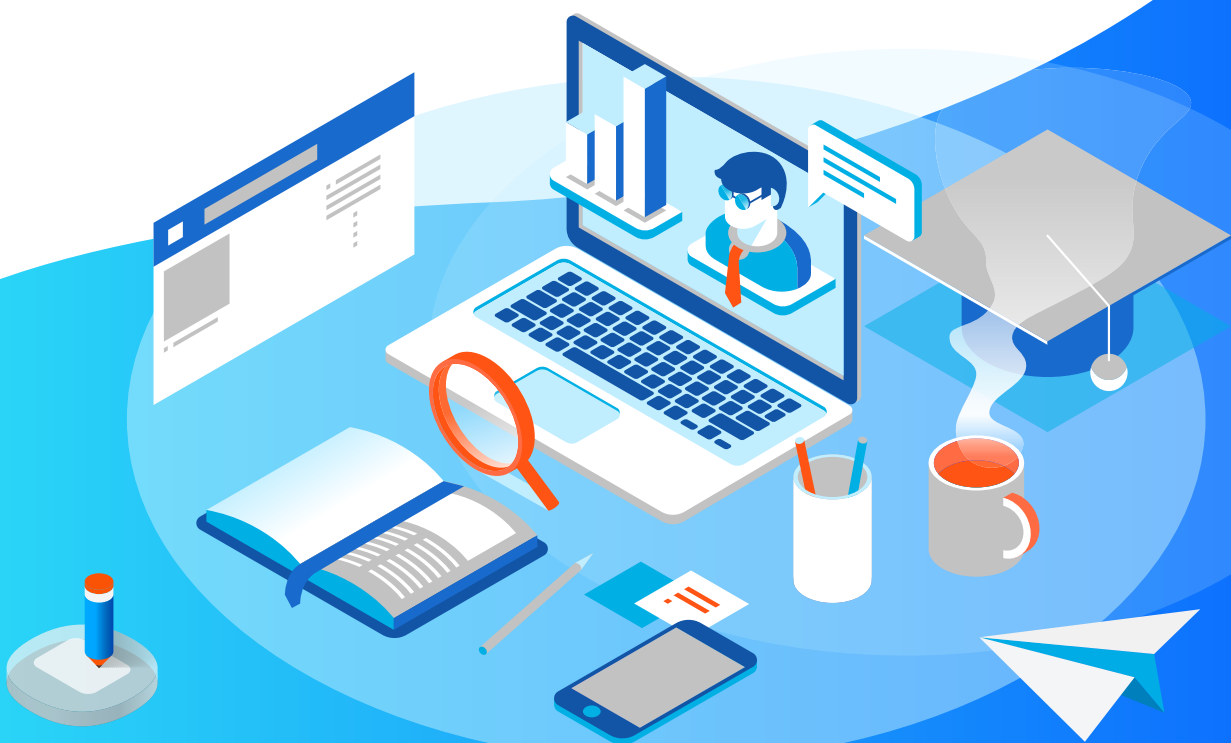


Memory Approaches

Name

Institution



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Memory can be described as the ability of a system to respond to events by storing and modifying the resultant information structures such that, the existing perceptions are influenced by past acquisitions. There have been massive attempts by scholars to understand different regimes of memory (Freud I., 1925). These efforts have been undertaken by scholars from various disciplines. Consequently, different explanations on the acquisition, retaining, and memory loss has come up. This study tries to compare and contrast the various approaches, as well as seek for a comprehensive explanation on the regimes of memory.

The historical approach to the study of memory focuses on the reception of the past visual, textual, and oral representation. The approach is highly subjective since it relates to what the historians perceive as crucial to remember. The method does not provide the basis for relating the past with the present. As a result, revolutionists' historians have come up with a way of creating connectedness between the past and the present. Thus, it has established that the present is influenced by past thoughts and perceptions. However, these thoughts are always changing (Freud S. , 1899)

Freud also came up with psychoanalysis perception. The perception explains the conscious and the unconscious mind using the iceberg metaphor. It holds that memory traces cannot leave a person's the mind. Thus, repressed memories of early childhood arising from sexual conflicts and traumas still remain active forces in someone's mind. These forces shape the personalities of individuals and result to neurotic suffering, which Freud proposed, can be relieved through analytic therapy (Mieke, 1999).

Revolutionist historians have raised credibility of Freud as a researcher. There are some basic assumptions that Freud ignored in an attempt to propose cures to the patients. Whereas, historians focus on connectedness between the past and the present, psychoanalysis focuses on permanent memory traces. Psychoanalysis holds that there are permanent store houses contrary to the historians who hold that the present is influenced by past perceptions. However, both perceptions trace to the past though on a different point of view. The scientists also criticize the theory saying that it is more related to the history and sociology as compared to scientific thought (Mieke, 1999).

The sociological view recognizes that most human affairs are temporal. It asserts that the continuities, as well as discontinuities in the social life of a person, have a direct impact on recalling and forgetting. It also bears an influence in selection and processing of the memory traces. Moreover, the mind is described as so social to the extent that every time it selects information for storage, it codifies the perceptions in line with their meanings (Masson, 1984). Additionally, the recollections people have about a particular event are greatly influenced by recollections of similar past event. Thus, the network of social relationships plays a part in constituting and stabilizing the recall in memory.

The science of memory emerged from the weaknesses witnessed in the previous explanations of memory. The scientists believe that the majority of Freud work is no longer credible. They try to implement the mind as a pure science of mind. Recent researches are geared towards having a complete scientific viewpoint (Radstone, 2003). However, the research faces numerous challenges due to the social and collective dimension of the mind.

In my opinion, the best compelling field is the sociological approach.

The reason behind this assertion relates to the fact that, people are social human beings. It serves as the best perspective in evaluating the continuities and symbolic realities in the mind of a person. Moreover, sociological field does not perceive the mind as a purely social field alienated from the rest of disciplines but it borrows heavily from history, culture and collective memory. It is, therefore, a comprehensive field involving many disciplines, which forms the model of every research activity (Schacter, 1996).

The possibility of combining these perceptions to come up with a new field of memory studies is possible. These fields are interrelated with the only difference being that they follow a specific guideline. History can provide information on the development of memory thought, as well as locating the connection of different historiographies. Sociological approach would combine collective, cultural and social aspect. Scientific analysis would be important in adopting a systematic and verifiable approach and, thereby coming up with a well researched work (Radstone, 2003). Memory involves many aspects and, therefore, enhancing comprehensive understanding. The diverse and complex concept of mind can be resolved through integration of the discipline. It is also significant to note that the disciplines are not competing but only focuses on a specific path in explaining the domains of memory.

In conclusion, the regimes of memory have become a central focus in the recent past. Various fields believe that they can provide answers to this contentious domain. Consequently, they have made claims and counter claims against each other. However, these debates are meaningless because each field seeks to provide a better way of understanding memory. These disciplines can, therefore, be combined to come up with a single field that embraces all the concerns of different fields.

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