

BOOK REVIEWS

Ruisel, Imrich — Ruiselová, Zdena: *Vybrané problémy psychológie poznávania* (Selected Problems of the Psychology of Cognition). Bratislava, VEDA 1990. 308 pp.

Cognitive psychology represents what might be termed an overruling research and theoretical trend of psychology in the 1980s which investigates in the broadest sense of the term how man acquires, processes and applies ideas and notions for effective activity. "Selected Problems of the Psychology of Cognition" by Imrich Ruisel and Zdena Ruiselová make accessible to the reader cardinal topics of cognitive psychology which, nonetheless, conceptually differ from the typical cognitive psychology, say in the U.S.A. As a matter of fact, the synthesizing denominator of this text is the accent laid on a psychoregulatory approach to the topic studied, that is to say, an effort at integrating cognition, behaviour and experiencing within the personality context. This accent is also characteristic of the authors' own research work which is incorporated in this text.

The introductory chapter provides an overview of the development of philosophical, later psychological opinions on the essence of cognition. The rational tissue of the text is refreshed with classical quotations. The authors present the latest state of research of the issues in a certain confrontation of concepts of cognitive science and cognitive psychology. A broader frame of reference concerning cognitive science is here provided by an integration of data on intelligent systems: this involves a framework that by its content overlaps with the domain of cognitive psychology which is focused on human knowledge.

On the basis of a historical excursion and a delimitation of the subject, the authors include a chapter that is concerned with basic terms of

cognitive concepts: mental representation and mental modelling. In this part we meet also with the author-couple's own research activity. Similarly designed are also the chapters on perception, memory and thinking. Hence, they are set up so as to include also the authors' views and concepts in a qualified context of classical and relevant data. A laudable feature is that despite the very wide informational scope of the text and the standard of its processing, it preserves its "readability" right to the end.

The chapter on "Social Cognition" explains that part of concepts regarding cognitive phenomena which lack any major tradition under local, home conditions, have not been professionally mapped in any adequate range; hence, they are all the more interesting to the reader.

In the concluding reflections the authors judge the applicability of the notions obtained, speak of further development of cognitive psychology. They see the prospects of cognition in intrapsychic bonds between cognition and personality.

"Selected Problems of the Psychology of Cognition" represent a successful integration of a qualified and particularized review of relevant literature and the authors' own research work. It is a modernly processed text which, despite the fact that it brings a large amount of information and theoretical concepts, still preserves reader interest and extends it beyond the circle of narrowly specialized experts.

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