

Episode 9 The difference between men and women in dextro-rotation and levo-rotation

In Episode 8, we put forward the hypothesis that the differences in perception between men and women may arise from a difference in dextro-rotation and levo-rotation. In this Episode, 9, we present observations based on this view and describe what the author has heard on this subject.

In the May 1983 issue of *Bungei-Shunju* (a famous monthly magazine in Japan), the discovery (by Hideo Sakai of the Tokyo Metropolitan Neuroscience Institute) of a cell in the brain which is sensitive to rotation and responds differently whether the rotation is counterclockwise or clockwise was reported. If we pursue findings like this, our hypothesis can be verified.

According to a TV program, statistics say that head-on collisions are more frequent among women in Japan, but more frequent among men in the US. Presumably this is related to the left lane rule in Japan, and the right lane rule in the US. This may derive from the direction of glances reported in Episode 7, and the perception of dextro-rotation and levo-rotation.

First topic: Men and women avoiding each other in a narrow passage

Let us suppose a man and woman pass each other in a narrow passage, as in Fig. 1. If we observe how they avoid each other, we notice the following difference. Looking from above, men turn clockwise centered on their left shoulders, whereas women turn counterclockwise centered on their right shoulders.

This difference is apparent in dancing, where men turn with their left hands as the center, and women turn with their right hands as the center.

Second topic: Recognition of east and west

This is a story someone heard on the radio. Combining it with the experiment described below, new light may be shed on the mechanism of perception.

According to statistics held by American police, there is a difference between east and west when shoving drunks into a police car. If the car is parked to the east, the going is easy. However, if the car is parked to the west, the going is rough. The reason is unknown.

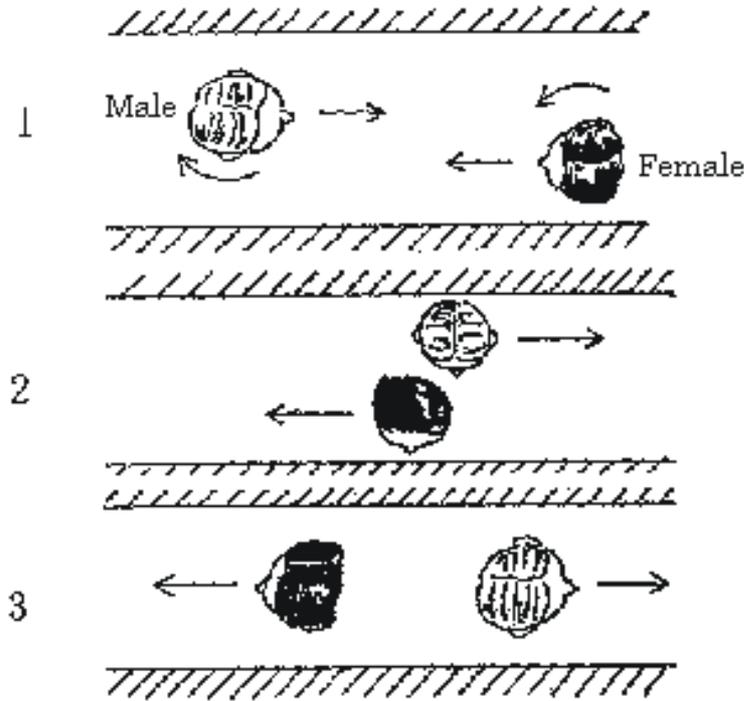
This story does not tell how, or from which door, the drunks are shoved into the car, but it inspired the following observation. It applies only to some people, but a difference in perception exists between men and women regarding east and west. In Fig. 2, two people stand east and west and look at each other at eye level. The appropriate distance is about 1 meter. The results of repeated experiments were as follows:

- (1) Men feel somewhat closer if they look east rather than west. This is regardless of whether the other is male or female. If the two are aligned north and south, there is no difference.
- (2) Women feel somewhat closer if they look west rather than east. As in the case of men, there is no difference if the two are aligned north and south.
- (3) In both cases above, no difference is felt if the other is a thing and not a person.

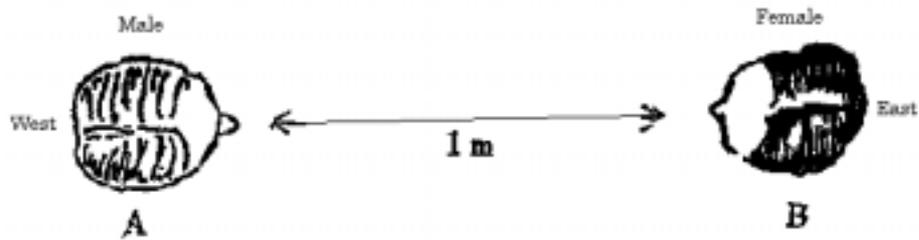
From the above, the following practical applications as well as new avenues of study are opened.

1. If a couple goes on a date, the man should face east and the woman should face west so that they feel closer to each other.
2. Suppose we do these experiments in the southern hemisphere. If the results are the same, they are presumably due to geomagnetism. If they are the opposite, the rotation of the earth is the likely cause. If experimental results become available, they should tell us whether our mechanisms of perception and thought are more influenced by inertial factors or electromagnetic factors. I hope, therefore, that somebody in the southern hemisphere repeats the experiments. I have heard that clocks which go counterclockwise are on sale there, so the results should be interesting.

As a possible opening to enhance creativity and unravel the mechanisms of perception, I have written down my observations as these Episodes.



Episode 9-1. Dextrogyrate and levorotation of men and women



Episode 9-2. Recognition of east and west