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Left-handers associate left with nice, right with ugly

By ANI

January 29th, 2010

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WASHINGTON - Left-handers tend to associate the left with nice and good things and the right with ugly and bad things, a research has found.

The above conclusion is a part of the many studies compiled by professor Julio Santiago de Torres, from the Department of **Experimental Psychology** and Behavioural Physiology at the University of Granada, published in *Ciencia Cognitiva: Revista Electrónica de Divulgación*.

Researcher Daniel Casasanto (Stanford University) found out that left-handers tend to associate **the left** with nice and good things and the right with ugly and bad things, which goes against the enormous power of cultural context in which they live and the language they use.

In one of his experiments, Casasanto presented participants a diagram that depicts a character who was **planning a trip** to the zoo, and who loves zebras and thinks they are good, but dislikes pandas and thinks they are bad. The participant had to draw a zebra in the box that best represented good things and a panda in the box that best represented bad things.

Most of right-handed people located good things in the box on the right while left-handers placed them in the box on the left. Interestingly, only 14 percent of participants thought that his election had to do with what his dominant hand was.

Then, to see whether the left or right location could affect rating dimensions on abstract personality, he asked another group of participants to rate pairs of objects depicted in another drawing, indicating which of the two seemed more intelligent, more honest, more attractive and happier. And in a final experiment, participants were asked to assess which candidate would they chose for a job, or what product would they buy in a store.

In all tasks, right-handers tended to evaluate the object on the right better, while left-handers favoured the one on the left. Therefore, UGR professor says, "these results demonstrate that perceptuomotor experiences, in this case the greater ease and fluidity of interaction with one or another side of space, are sufficient to generate stable associations between specific dimensions, such as space, and concepts of a high degree of abstraction, such as kindness, intelligence or honesty." (ANI)

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January 26th, 2010

WASHINGTON - A new research has shown that members of the *Perissodinus* genus of fish have developed a hugely lopsided jaw that provides a distinct feeding advantage, which means that they are putting function before form. A research team from Syracuse University, led by [Thomas Stewart](#) and R.

Why some people easily fall into hypnotic trance

January 21st, 2010 LONDON - Researchers have speculated that people who find it easier to fall into a trance are more likely to have an imbalance in the efficiency of their brain's two hemispheres. In order to check if there are differences between the brains of susceptible and unresponsive volunteers when they were awake during hypnosis activity, Peter Naish of the Open University in Milton Keynes, UK, used a standard test of hypnotic susceptibility to identify 10 volunteers of each type, reports New Scientist.

China's wild tigers face extinction in another 30 years

January 20th, 2010 LONDON - The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has warned that China's wild tiger population has fallen to just 50 and faces extinction in another 30 years due to poaching and the destruction of its natural habitat. "If there are no urgent measures taken, there is a high risk that the wild tiger will go extinctm," Zhu Chunquan, conservation director of biodiversity at WWF China, said ahead of the start of the [Year of the Tiger](#) on February 14.

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Amputation may result in altered perception around hands

January 7th, 2010 WASHINGTON - A new study from [the Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#) has shown that hand amputation might alter the spatial perception around our hands. The space within reach of our hands - where actions such as grasping and touching occur - is known as the "action space." The research team has found amputation of the hand results in distorted visuospatial perception (i.e., figuring out where in space objects are located) of the action space.

Your culture influences the way you dance

December 21st, 2009 LONDON - One's cultural affiliations have a bearing on the way one dances, according to a new study. The way people remember dance moves depends on the culture they come from, the study says.

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"Technological progress is like an axe in the hands of a pathological criminal." - Albert Einstein