SYMPOSIUM ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE INDUCTION FIELD IN VISUAL FORM PERCEPTION

Japanese experimental psychology developed under the strong influence of German psychology, esp. of Gestalt psychology, and the problems of perception have been one of the most popular research themes for Japanese psychologists. Another reason for the popularity of studies of perception may be seen in the situation that these experiments can be done with rather simple equipment which even Japanese psychologists who have not been afforded much research funds can buy or make by themselves. We can mention the studies on constancy, illusions, inductions, figural after-effects, etc. It is a pleasure for us to have a symposium on the problem of induction in visual perception. Dr. Obonai has continued his research on psychophysiological induction for thirty years, and his studies covered very broad area of psychology. Dr. Motokawa is a physiologist, whose publications in English have attracted the attention of many western psychologists. He started his experiments on color vision with an electrostimulation method after the War, but he has actively developed his ingenious ideas in experiments on various problems of visual perception. Dr. Yokose applied a mathematical formulation of the vector field in visual form perception to his experiments using light threshold. He began his experiments with very simple hand-made apparatus, but he opened a new line of research. These three are approaching the same problems with different methods, and there are some inconsistencies among their results. In this number we could not have active discussions among them, but I hope in some following number we shall have much broader discussions, asking participation of some American and European psychologists.

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Distribution of Papers on Perception at the JPA Conventions by Problem Areas

Problem areas	Convention of Japanese Psychol. Association						Total
	1951	'52	'53	'54	'55	'56	
1. Induction field, illusions.	8	12	12	20	14	18	84
2. After-effects, inspection.	4	9	4	7	13	9	46
3. Constancies.	3	2	4	9	7	9	34
4. Space, movement.	5	4	6	8	9	8	40
5. Comparison, time error.	1	0	1	1	7	16	26
6. Dynamic, social.	1	1	5	8	2	3	20
7. Developmental.	8	2	4	4	3	4	25
8. Theoretical, Methodological.	2	0	2	0	1	1	6
9. Others.	6	8	11	18	20	20	83
Total	38	38	49	75	76	88	364
Total number of papers.	283	315	344	446	468	503	2359