

Unveiling Human Marvels in Cognition and Behaviour: A Parapsychological Exploration

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Abstract

Psychology evaluates observable phenomena associated with human cognition and behavior. Many cases related to extraordinary functions of cognition and behavior have been reported throughout human evolution. These extraordinary potentials have been explored under the discipline of parapsychology. The classical period of parapsychology consists of many criticisms, and explored psychic abilities of extrasensory perception (ESP) and psychokinetic phenomena(PK) have been recognized as a myth. However, parapsychological studies have been conducted continuously to date. Considering this limitation and continued evolution, this study has evaluated whether these exceptional human abilities of ESP and PK are scientific or mythological phenomena. During the early period, parapsychologists explored the visible psychic abilities in individuals and classified these abilities as extraordinary abilities related to human cognition and behavior. But due to the errors in the methodology, the criticism of pseudoscience exists in parapsychology. Then, the parapsychologist, through the experiments on neurology, has scientifically interpreted and validated the ESP and PK. Therefore, this study shows that the parapsychological study of ESP and PK is a scientific and existing phenomenon in human cognition and behavior rather than a myth.

Keywords: Anomalistic, Extra Sensory Perception, Paranormal, Parapsychology, Psychokinetic

1. Introduction

The study of psychology has explored observable human potential, which is present in individual cognition and behavior. Apart from ordinary human living, some cases have been reported related to human potentiation, which has represented an abnormal cognitive and behavioral ability beyond the ordinary human experience. Scholars' intention to study these phenomena has provided the seeds for the formation of the discipline of parapsychology. Contemporary human paranormal and anomalous experiences and abilities are studied under the discipline of parapsychology (Irwin & Watt, 2007). Throughout the history of parapsychology, scholars have utilized several methodologies to explore the extraordinary human potential. However, the major criticism that has occurred is the scientific validation of explored mechanisms and interpretations (Crumbaugh, 2017). Therefore, the phenomena explored have been interpreted as mythology or pseudoscience (Kaufman & Kaufman, 2019). However, the prominent scholar of parapsychology, J.B. Rhine, has indicated that these abilities are propagated through the potential of the sixth sense. Considering this paradigm, parapsychological studies have explored the paranormal abilities of the extra-sensory perception and psychokinetic as the cognitive and behavioral potential of the individual (Schmeidler, 2016). Thereafter, paranormal abilities of extra-sensory perception and psychokinetic were recognized as a human potential of the psyche and interpreted according to the scholars' viewpoint. Considering this overview and limitations, respective studies explored the scientific foundation and realistic view of extrasensory perception and psychokinetic phenomena according to past and present scientific explorations related to ESP and PK. Therefore, the classical period of parapsychological methodology has been criticized, but later neurobiological studies have explored individual parapsychological abilities from a more scientific viewpoint. Studies related to

the consciousness and parapsychology of religion have emphasized the association between the development of the sixth organ and parapsychological abilities. This study indicates the individual anomalous potentials of extra-sensory perception and psychokinetic as a realistic and exportable phenomenon rather than a myth or pseudo-science (Rao, 2015).

2. Objectives

The objectives of the literature review are:

- to recognize parapsychological abilities related to human cognition and behaviors
- to explore the nature of the parapsychological abilities that occur in cognition and behavior from a scholarly perspective
- to recognize the scientific basis of the parapsychological abilities of human cognition and behavior
- to comparatively recognize whether parapsychological ability in cognition and behavior is a myth or an existing phenomenon.

3. Methodology

This study is qualitative. The literature related to the study objective has been screened. The pertinent data aligned with the research objectives have been systematically extracted from the materials according to the prepared theoretical framework. The collected information has been appraised according to the thematic analysis method, and the evolution of the respective concept in parapsychology has been identified. The related literature and narrative developed under three headings of paranormalities in cognition, paranormalities in behavior, and scientific foundation of paranormal abilities have been presented.

4. Result and Discussion

The seeds of parapsychology have grown with psychical therapeutic approaches and extra-sensory abilities performed by scholars and individuals. Scholars' exploration of the scientific foundation of the psychic experience began with studies in the discipline of parapsychology. Throughout the exploration, parapsychologists have recognized the spectrum of parapsychology and propagated the sections of parapsychology (Watt, 2016). As a result of these experiments, scientists have been able to make a proper classification of the extraordinary human capabilities that perform beyond ordinary human abilities. Majorly, these mind-oriented capabilities can be recognized in two dimensions of human psychological attributes. These can be recognized as cognition and behaviors (Rhine & Pratt, 1957).

4.1 Paranormalities in Cognition

Human cognitive function majorly represents the psychological functions of perception, language processing, memory, thinking, and problem-solving (Brasiby & Gellatly, 2005). The parapsychological anomalies related to cognition are primarily represented through perception. Perception is a major psychological function of any being, which helps determine what to experience the world within sensory organs and interact with the environment. This experience is common for any human being within their boundaries. However, scholars have recognized that few people perform various cognitive actions related to perception beyond ordinary perceptual experience (Watt, 2016). Contemporary scholars have named these abilities under the title of Extra Sensory Perception, or ESP. The concepts discussed under ESP are clairvoyance, telepathy, precognition, remote viewing, psychometry or psychoscopy, and spirit communication (Rhine, 1964). As a result of the experiments of J.B. Rhine, the scientific study of extra-sensory perception

was propagated. An individual's ability to perform cognitive activities beyond the potential of ordinary human or natural phenomena can be recognized as an extrasensory perception. Psychologists highlight that the five sensory organs naturally build up with a capacity towards acquiring information about the environment. The inadequate function of the sensory organs may limit the sensory and information acquisition process (Nolen et.al, 2014). However, ESP is especially sensitive and capable of unusual performance through the energy of a sixth organ, or supernatural sixth sense (Sadler, 2010). Individual ability of clairvoyance can be recognized as the psychic vision reveals information related to an object, event, or person beyond the ordinary perception. This ability is beyond our ordinary sensory eyes and can only be experienced through an extraordinary sense organ (Weschche, 2013). The significant cognitive ability of human beings is communication with the use of the five sense organs. However, an individual who can communicate beyond sensory perception and cognition can be recognized as having the telepathetic ability to communicate with a person without a medium of communication or as communication between minds (Braude, 1978). Spirit communication is also associated with this supernatural communication process, and an individual's ability to communicate with unseen beings can be recognized as this way of communication. However, on most occasions, this has been highlighted as pseudoscience. The extra-sensory perception ability of psychometry or psychoscopy can be recognized as the individual's ability to obtain information about a person or an object by touch (Hakimm, 2022). Further, the ESP abilities of precognition and remote viewing have been explored with several experiments, and the ability of pre-cognition has been defined as the individual ability of forecasting future or information related to a remote geographical location as remote viewing. (Dunne & Bisaha, 1979). In addition, the exploration of ESP was mainly performed with Rhine's statistical method and laboratory experiments, and evaluated the real-life incidents related

to extrasensory perception (Krippner, 1977). Validation has been made through preliminary cross-validation experiments. Experiments related to ESP emphasize that these are supernatural abilities of an individual and further, that these potentials can be developed through learning or practice. Moreover, with the future findings related to ESP, J.B. Rhine has rejected the radiation hypothesis in favor of some new sort of energy, non-radiation character, or reaching out from one mind to another (Lemmon, 1937). However, these abilities of ESP are inadequate to be explained from a scientific perspective and can be recognized as a mystical way of the mind. The function of the extra sense in the brain is questionable. Therefore, the theme of ESP is still an unresolved issue in the historical evolution of parapsychology.

4.2 Paranormalities in Behavior

Individual psychic abilities were not adequate for the cognitive function and related to individual behavior, these parapsychological features may be visible. The behavior-related parapsychological abilities are defined as psychokinetic or telekinesis (Rogo, 1978). Scholars have explored this psychic experience and defined psychokinesis as the individual ability to influence physical objects in the outer world through their thoughts and the psychic power developed in the mind (Schmidt, 2016). This individual's psychic ability is a behavioral performance due to the individual's performance of telekinetic activity. Individuals may utilize the behavioral gesture in association with their mental psychic energies (Psychic Science, 2018). Furthermore, this can be elaborated with the etymology of the word “psychokinetic”. The term gives the meaning of the movement of the mind or the psyche. This means this performance can be recognized as an observable movement of individual paranormal abilities (Irwin & Watt, 2007). The scientific era of the study of behavioral psychic abilities began at Duke Laboratory and J.B. Rhine evaluated eighteen cases (Rhine & Pratt, 1957) and recognized the list of

psychic abilities related to psychokinetics recognized as the apports, levitation, spirit raps, materialization, and paranormal movement of objects (Randall, 1982). The parapsychological ability of apports can be recognized as an individual's ability to move a physical object from one place to another location or a remote location (Melton, 2008). The ability for levitation is known as individual potential move or levitate in the air without the involvement of a medium (Xiong, 2010). On some occasions, spirits communicate their messages through tapping, and knowing the ability to recognize and communicate can be defined as the ability of the spirit raps (Dale, 1973). Materialization or manifestation means a medium of effect towards objects in a supernaturalistic approach (Holzer, 1972). Further, individual ability to move physical objects without any inference is also represented in more than a hundred cases in the history of parapsychology (Griffin, 1997). Research studies related to PK, or psychokinetics, have been proven with the many evidence-based cases, withdrawing the fraudulent incidents, and have been proven as a physical reality. This individual's potential is known as mind over matter, and making changes to the mind, psyche, or consciousness in the macroscopic frequencies. The outcomes of the research related to PK show that this ability is a passive volition in human nature (Braude, 2002).

4.3 Scientific Foundation of Paranormal Abilities

The parapsychological exploration of ESP and PK is a twin phenomenon of real human experience rather than a pseudo-science or experience. Considering the above explanation, ESP and PK can be recognized as the unique human potential related to the function of cognition and behavior. However, contemporary questions may arise related to the scientific foundation and reality of the above-described supernatural powers of the individual. Throughout this heading, it reveals the scientific foundation of the above-described anomalies. The scientific

exploration of parapsychology was focused on addressing the following questions related to ESP: (Henry, 2005, P.99)

01. Is it, like sense perception, limited by space, time, and situation, or is it, potentially, independent of space, time, and situation limitations?
02. Is it an acquired skill that anyone could, with practice, hope to attain? Or is it, like in the case of a genius in mathematics or music, something one is born with?
03. Can it be explained in the sort of way that we can now explain sensory perception?
04. Are ESP experiments replicable?

However, there are no universal answers to address these questions properly. The historical development of parapsychology reveals that scientists who have explored ESP have utilized several approaches of forced choice, experiments, free choice experiments, ESP or Zener card method, hypnotism, ganzfeld techniques, dream telepathy technique, and free response procedure utilized for the exploration of ESP (Henry, 2005). ESP abilities indicate a metaphysical and mystical orientation. However, these features can be explained scientifically. According to scholars, exploration indicates that PSI is a product or function of a normal physical process of the individual, and many cases have been reported related to the ESP (Shafer, 2023). Beyond the early period, later statistical exploration with neurobiological experiments has given more scientific orientation towards ESP and proven that psychic abilities exist. Neurological researchers who have explored the scientific foundation of cognitive and behavioral paranormalities have focused on the function of the brain, brain waves, and the neurochemical function of the individual. The research tools for the evaluation were quantitative electronic paleography (qECG) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) (Krippner & Frideman, 2010). Further

exploration related to this matter highlights that these abilities are mainly correlated with the brain hemisphere. This has been recognized through the pathological conditions associated with the right and left hemispheres. In addition to this, scholars have explored the nature of the brain wave function of the individual in the psi and ESP experience, highlighting a significant increment of the alpha waves of the brain (Williams, 2012). Moreover, the function of the limbic system and cortex relation makes the ESP function possible, and with the function of the memory (Rock et.al, 2021). Later, researchers explored the individual ability of ESP as the extra sensory faculties and highlighted that the supernatural cognition behavior and cognition are a result of the involvement of cerebral areas and frontal and temporal lobes, and the connections between the limbic system (Perrotta, 2019). The experience of consciousness related to parapsychology and religion also highlighted the animal's cognitive and behavioral abilities concerning the above spectrum. In addition, contemporary scholars of parapsychology of religion have highlighted that through that meditation-based consciousness development or the psychological development highlighted in Indian religious practice provides the opportunity to develop and experience the abilities of extra-sensory perception and psychokinesis (Rao, 2010).

5. Conclusion

The historical evolution of human beings has revealed extraordinary abilities of human cognition and behavior. According to classical period studies, these extraordinary capabilities related to cognition have been recognized as extra-sensory perception, and behavioral capabilities have been recognized as psychokinetic. During the early times, cases related to such abilities had been reported, but studies related to them were not scientific. The consequence was that these abilities were seen as a fraud and considered parapsychology a pseudo-

science. However, later scientific studies of J.B. Rhine have explored the scientific foundation of these psychic abilities and proven that extra-sensory perception and psychokinetic abilities are potentially related to human cognition and behavior originating through the sixth sense. This has sharpened with the academic interpretations given for ESP and PK. Later, as a result of the evolution of scientific experiments, the validity of previous experiments has been questioned, and again, the question of whether these abilities are myth, fraud, or existing phenomena arises. Contemporary parapsychologists have addressed these criticisms with more scientifically validated experiments in neurology and principles of consciousness. These experiments have overcome the methodological errors existing in the previous experiments and provided a more scientific interpretation of ESP and PK. Therefore, in the early period, the lack of sufficient methodology in parapsychology, ESP and PK were seen as a myth or non-scientific, but contemporary experiments have proven ESP and PK have scientific validity and are existing phenomena in human cognition and behavior rather than myth.

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