Annotated Bibliography

A) Books:


B) Articles:


   This article reveals empirical results concerning the relationship between speed, body posture, limb kinematics and particularly 3 emotions: anger, sadness and joy. The study has been done using human subjects and has had a meaningful focus on discovering the way healthy individuals perceive particular emotions. This knowledge was then meant to be transferred into other areas of medicine, in treating children with problems like autism.

   Even though the test is limited to different ways of walking, it draws interesting conclusions in defining traits characteristic to the aforementioned emotions. Joy, for example depends more on posture, looser movements, especially in the wrists and less on limb velocity, while sadness depends more on low limb velocities and less on posture. Anger is usually associated with stiff, heavy movements, high velocities, especially in the ankles and depends less on the posture of the character.


   Ibanez’s article is very well documented and thus contrives a significant and productive experiment on people’s capacity of perceiving emotions through the movement of abstract shapes, such as lines. He defines two ways of approaching emotions: categorical, which implies the existence of six basic emotions, generally available and dimensional, which uses a 2D system to measure emotion. He conducts his experiment using the latter modality, defining his two
dimensions as arousal or energy and valence or symmetry. An emotion nuance, such as relaxed can then be defined through different amounts of energy and symmetry allotted to a set of lines in movement on a plane.

The conclusions of this paper underline people’s quality of recognising emotional states from the movement of abstract shapes. The number of operations used is limited, however and the results are mostly defined in the areas of positive and negative emotions as the dimensions used are only two.


This article clarifies people’s “hardwired” capacity of recognising emotional states by identifying “dynamic patterns of action” even from still images of abstract figures. The results were obtained quickly, as volunteers did not have much difficulty in choosing the appropriate responses.

Interesting conclusions have been drawn, regarding the direct relationship between tilted objects and negative emotions (fear, disgust, sadness) and vertical shapes and positive emotions (joy). However both anger and joy have been related to vertical positions, as anger is mostly associated with approach and joy is associated with jumps, when filled with enthusiasm.

The limitations of this experiment, however are the lack of movement of the objects and the little consideration for factors such as shape, size and colour, which have just been concluded to bear almost no significance in the test results.

C) Videos:


D) Links