

AI-03057 Folk Psychology vs Folk Science

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Explain and deep the concept of folk psychology - the perspective that invokes the family of "mentalist" concepts, such as belief, desire, knowledge, fear, pain, expectation, intention, understanding, dreaming, imagination, self-consciousness, list 22 examples.

Folk psychology, or common-sense psychology, is the human capacity to explain and predict the behavior and mental states of others. It's the everyday, intuitive framework we use to understand ourselves and those around us. This perspective relies on a family of concepts often referred to as "mentalist" or "intentional" states.

Core Concepts

The central idea is that people's actions are caused by their beliefs and desires. For example, we might explain why someone went to the kitchen by saying, "She wanted a glass of water (desire) and believed there was a glass in the kitchen (belief)." This simple framework allows us to make sense of complex human behavior.

Intentional States

These are the core components of folk psychology. They are called intentional states because they are directed toward or "about" something in the world. For instance, a belief is always a belief about some state of affairs, and a desire is always a desire for some outcome.

Examples of Mentalistic Concepts

Here are 22 examples of mentalistic concepts used in folk psychology:

1. Belief: I believe it will rain tomorrow.
2. Desire: I desire a new car.
3. Knowledge: She knows the answer to the question.
4. Fear: He has a fear of heights.
5. Pain: The patient feels pain in their leg.
6. Expectation: We have an expectation of a good outcome.
7. Intention: I have the intention of finishing my homework.
8. Understanding: He has a deep understanding of the topic.
9. Dreaming: She was dreaming about flying.
10. Imagination: The child has a vivid imagination.
11. Self-consciousness: The teenager feels self-conscious about their appearance.
12. Hope: They have hope for a better future.
13. Love: She feels love for her family.
14. Joy: The baby expressed pure joy.
15. Anger: He couldn't control his anger.
16. Regret: I feel regret for my past decisions.
17. Doubt: She has doubt about the plan.
18. Surprise: They were filled with surprise at the news.
19. Curiosity: The cat's curiosity led it to the window.
20. Jealousy: Her jealousy was hard to hide.
21. Empathy: He showed great empathy for his friend's situation.
22. Attention: The student paid close attention to the lecture.

What is folk science? Explain and delve. List 22 examples.

Folk science refers to the informal, common-sense knowledge and beliefs people hold about the natural and social world, often without the use of formalized,

rigorous scientific methods. It is the intuitive way we understand and predict phenomena based on observation, tradition, and cultural wisdom, rather than empirical data and systematic testing.

Folk science often stands in contrast to formalized, "mechanistic" scientific understandings, where the function of each part and the relationship of all parts are known in detail. It's often accepted as "common wisdom" in a given culture, and people may not even realize their explanations are rooted in this informal framework. While often useful for practical life, folk science can be inaccurate or inconsistent when held up to the scrutiny of the scientific method.

Examples of Folk Science

- Weather Lore: "Red sky at night, sailors' delight; red sky in the morning, sailors take warning."
- Herbal Remedies: The belief that certain herbs or plants can cure ailments, a foundation for traditional medicine.
- Astrology: The idea that the positions of celestial bodies influence human events and personality.
- Phrenology: The now-debunked belief that a person's character could be determined by the shape of their skull.
- Home Remedies: Using honey to soothe a sore throat or chicken soup to fight a cold.
- Folk Biology: The intuitive classification of plants and animals into categories like "weeds" or "game animals," often based on usefulness to humans.
- Folk Physics: The naive belief that heavier objects fall faster than lighter ones.
- Intuitive Chemistry: The notion that mixing certain substances will always result in a predictable, non-reactive outcome.
- Folk Mathematics: The use of informal, mental calculations for tasks like estimating a tip or splitting a bill.
- Mythical Explanations: Attributing natural phenomena like eclipses or thunder to supernatural beings or events.

- Superstitions: Knocking on wood for good luck or avoiding walking under a ladder.
- Folk Nutrition: The belief that certain food combinations are inherently bad for digestion (e.g., not eating fruit after a meal).
- Old Wives' Tales: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."
- Common Sense: A belief that a cold breeze can make you sick, even though illnesses are caused by pathogens.
- Agricultural Lore: Planting crops based on the phases of the moon.
- Intuitive Medicine: The belief that a fever is always bad and must be "starved," while in reality, a fever can be a natural defense mechanism.
- Folk History: The transmission of historical events through oral tradition, which can be prone to embellishment or error.
- Physiognomy: The practice of assessing a person's character or personality from their outer appearance.
- Folk Linguistics: The intuitive, non-expert beliefs about language, such as the idea that some dialects are "lazy" or "incorrect."
- Proverbs: The use of common sayings, like "The early bird gets the worm," to explain human behavior and success.
- Traditional Navigation: Relying on star patterns, sun, and other natural signs to navigate without instruments.
- Folk Psychology: The subject of your previous question, which is an example of folk science applied to the human mind.
This video delves into the historical context and meaning of the term "folk psychology."
What is Folk Psychology?