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著者	ONIZAWA TADASHI, SEKI YORIKO
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PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE “CHANGE TYPE” AND THE “NON-CHANGE TYPE” OF EIDETIC IMAGES

By

TADASHI ONIZAWA (鬼沢 貞)

(Department of Psychology, Iwate University, Morioka)

and

YORIKO SEKI (関 順子)

(Student Health Service Center, Iwate University, Morioka)

A change type and a non-change type were distinguishable among various appearances of eidetic image. The two types were explained in terms of feedback mechanism. For the purpose of examining personality characteristics of the two types, we administered the Rorschach test in which the feedback mechanism occurred. Consequently, we could find the results giving support to and not approving the Marburg school.

PROBLEM

The Marburg school believed that two main types were distinguishable among various eidetic phenomena that each subject reported under experimental conditions (Jaensch, 1930, 1932, 1933). The B-type was thought to have positively colored eidetic images which were easily produced and vanished at subject's own will. The eidetic image of this type was described as having remarkable movements and fantastic changes. The T-type, at the other extreme, was said to show the complementarily colored eidetic images of which appearances or disappearances were beyond voluntary control. It was shown that the movements or changes were not or rarely observed in this type. The Marburg school also proposed that the distinction between the two types meant more than a phenomenal level and was supposedly related to the difference in constitutional predispositions to basedowoid and tetany. They, then, related this difference to personality typology explained in terms of integration and disintegration.

After inspecting carefully the eidetic phenomena of children who participated in our investigation for the last three years, the present authors have found it possible to distinguish two types on the phenomenal appearances of eidetic images. In the first, named “change type”, spontaneous reorganized images take the place of original pictures. In other words, there unintentionally occur meaningful changes

and dramatic alternations of the appearance. At the other extreme, "non-change type", it is seen that eidetic images have the same contents as the stimulus objects, and are not changeable. If any changes may occur, they are rather meaningless and almost confined to change in the color. It must be particularly noted that our classification is not always in keeping with the classification of the Marburg school, since we make no attempt at explaining the relationship between eidetic image and constitutional characteristics.

It becomes necessary to make clear the mental process which gives rise to the difference between the "change type" and the "non-change type", and to examine whether the two eidetic phenomena brought about by such mental mechanisms relate to the difference in personality characteristics.

METHOD

Since eidetic images are projected and localized on some external surfaces before subject when they are observed, it may be said that they have the same role as stimuli played in a perception. Then, the difference in the appearances of eidetic images may be explained by the difference in the feedback mechanism which occurred between subject and stimulus. The more frequently feedbacks take place between subject and stimulus, the more changes will be brought about in the content of eidetic image. When no feedback occurs or it occurs with difficulty, eidetic image will not be changeable. This process corresponds with that of the Rorschach test, because the feedback between the subject and the stimulus (inkblot) is also involved in the Rorschach response. When the feedback mechanism does not occur in this test situation, no response, that is, rejection or failure will occur. When the feedback goes on smoothly, many responses will be facilitated and occur with sufficient rapidity. It is now obvious that both the difference in the appearances of eidetic images and the trends in the Rorschach responses, brought out by the difference in the feedback mechanisms, express certain personality traits. Thus, we decided to investigate the personality characteristics of the "change type" and the "non-change type" of eidetic image through the Rorschach test.

Subjects: We tested for eidetic image using the Habers' procedure (1964), a total of 365 boys and girls from the fourth to the sixth grade in six elementary schools, in Morioka City, its neighboring districts, remote places and the district along the Sanriku coast during 1971-1974. Eighty-seven of the 365 subjects (23.8%) reported images of at least one of the four pictures. The presence of eidetic image was identified by the strict criteria, i. e. the duration of any images reported the richness of detail, the location 'out there' and the scanning of images. 23 subjects (6.3%) were found to be eidetic. 8 subjects of them were available for administer-

ing the Rorschach test. By inspecting their reports, 4 subjects were classified as belonging to the "change type" and 4 subjects to the "non-change type".

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates that there were significant differences on some categories between the "change type" and "non-change type".

Table 1. Rorschach categories on which significant differences were found between the two types.

	Mean value			Mean value	
	Change type	Non-change type		Change type	Non-change type
(1) R	62.3	16.8	(12) F+%	29.9	44.9
(2) Rej	0.0	1.8	(13) H	11.3	2.0
(3) Dd %	17.2	2.1	(14) A	27.8	10.0
(4) Dd	21.4	2.4	(15) W	22.5	6.0
(5) dd	7.1	1.9	(16) F	34.0	10.1
(6) di	3.0	0.3	(17) FC	2.8	0.5
(7) dr	7.0	0.3	(18) CF+C	3.6	0.3
(8) S	5.3	1.0	(19) ΣC	5.3	0.5
(9) CF	3.3	0.3	(20) Fc	10.1	2.0
(10) Σc	8.9	1.6	(21) cF	3.9	0.6
(11) $\Sigma C + \Sigma c$	9.7	1.6	(22) F+%	32.9	47.5

From(1) to (4); the differences between the two types are significant at less than the .05 level by the *U*-test. From (15) to (22); they are at less than the .10 level.

Table 2. Distribution of FC : CF+C.

	Change type	Non-change type
FC < CF+C	3	
FC = CF+C	1	
FC > CF+C		1
0 0		3

Table 3. Type of the experience-balance.

	Change type	Non-change type
M > ΣC	1	
M < ΣC	3	
0 0		1
0 M < ΣC		1
M > 0 ΣC		2

The major findings are as follows:

In the "change type":

- (1) More total responses are observed in comparison with the "non-change type".
- (2) As to the location, more Dd responses and more S responses are made, and higher Dd% are shown.
- (3) W responses also tend to be more frequent.

- (4) The score of the form-level is lower.
- (5) No coartated type is found in the experience-balance.
- (6) Color responses and shading responses are more frequent. With respect to color-form integration, $FC < CF + C$ tendency is found.
- (7) Some subjects report upside-down forms, while keeping the card in the right position.

In the "non-change type":

- (1) A smaller number of total responses are made, and rejections or failures are more frequently occurred.
- (2) The score of the form-level shows comparatively high tendency.
- (3) Their experience-balances tend to the coartated type. No M response and no color response are often shown.
- (4) Fewer chromatic and achromatic color responses and fewer shading responses are counted.

From the above findings, particularly interesting interpretations are drawn.

At first, a larger amount of total responses and less rejection in children belonging to the "change type" compared with the "non-change type", may depend upon the difference of the feedbacks between both types. The "change" subjects have an affluent flow of ideas, as illustrated in a large number of total responses and no rejection. The lower scores of the form-level and the high score of Dd categories mean that they easily build up their own free imagination and fantasy, and develop their subjective, self-complacent fantastic worlds, without objective grasping the structural characteristics of stimulus and without faithful responding as they are. The above mentioned may be related to the tendency to withdrawal from real world. The high scores of dd, di, dr and Σc , and $FC < CF + C$ tendency indicate that they are characterized as emotional instability, sensitiveness and delicateness. It can be said that this type manifests personality traits of social maladjustment.

The "non-change" subjects show lower productivity, more frequent refusal responses and more stereotyped ways of thinking. They seem to grasp the structural characteristics of inkblots objectively and exactly, but are narrow in their ways of thinking and are quite difficult to develop their free imaginations. We may say that they take things objectively and coolly, take a prudent attitude, are suppressive and cannot have a wide view of things.

Considering the above features, we could say that the "change type" was seen in subject in which the feedback occurred so frequently between him and the image produced by stimulus rather than the stimulus itself, that their images were changeable in various directions, and that the "non-change type" was seen in the

subject whose feedback was limited only between him and stimulus, or difficult to occur.

Comparing our two types with the Marburg school's, we can find that the results are both for and against the Marburg school's view. Both the B-type and the "change type" excel in imagination, tend to develop subjective, self-complacent fantasies and imagies, take events relating to other things, and be emotional in general. In spite of the Marburg's assertion that the B-type subjects are good talkers and some sociable, it seems to us that the "change" subjects lack adaptability for others and are fairly unsociable, as just mentioned through the Rorschach scores. The "non-change type" and the T-type show as their common characteristics that they are restricted in free flow of ideas, taking things faithfully without being driven by feeling. Even though we excluded one of the 4 "non-change" subjects from the organic on the Dörken and Kral's criteria of $R > 20$ (Kataguchi, 1963), we could find that all the subjects showed Piotrowski's organic signs. On the other hand, the "change type" does not show the Piotrowski's organic signs. Thus, it may safely be said that the common characteristics seen in the T-type and the "non-change type" are certainly originated from the organic impairment.

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