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The species-determined general architectural design of human communication: the dynamic trans-spherical design – notes on the human communicative competence

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1. A brief introduction

The design approach to natural and man-made phenomena is assumed to represent a schematically reduced but also explanatorily efficient way of explaining events and processes within these general categories of phenomena. Human communication, which comprises verbal- (language) and nonverbal communication, is one such phenomenon which may be explained sufficiently well in terms of the design approach. The approach is based on the general assumption that a given whole is a sum of the contributing parts which render a synergic set of behaviours. Human communication is assumed to represent a multi-level whole which may be thought of as a design consisting of a number of constituents which, in turn, form a set of overlapping and cohesive spheres. The spheres are equally distributed between the human endo-habitat (or, the bio-neurocentric area) and exo-habitat (or, the sociocentric area). In the centre of this spherical design, one finds the entire human communicative behaviour dynamics secured by the general architectural design of human communication and performed by the human communicating agents (HCO).

2. The architectural design of human communicative competence

Human communication, which is the most complex of all types of communication encountered in nature, is assumed to be derived from a synergic functioning of a set of four overlapping spheres. They are collectively responsible for what one may term the 'human communicative competence'. The spheres comprise the following:

- the genotype-phenotype sphere which is responsible for the genetic profiling of every human communicator, that is, both in terms of the human (general) genome and in terms of the individual (i.e. specific and diversified) genetic equipment. The genome-genotype relationship is the foundation of such human traits as thought, language, and human communication,

- the organism-species sphere which comprises the demographic constraints, such that the human genotype requires (or equips) the entire species, while the phenotype requires (is limited to) individual organismal and environment-determined scaffoldings. Both spheres constitute the evolved human genome sub-design, or, the biocentric area which comprises the basic geno-deme level,

- the brain-mind sphere which is responsible for the generation and maintenance of the uniquely human mentalese,

- the society-culture sphere which contains the human genome-based transition of the human species into society (human sociality) which, in turn, is automatically transmitted into culture where language and the entire human communication system is contained,

The ‘brain-mind’ and ‘society-culture’ spheres converge into the human mento-meme supra design. The latter, thus, constitutes the derived mento-culture-centric area. It is in this topmost level of the general architectural design of human communication that the human species accomplishes the varied tasks of cognition, language construction, and communicates while ‘residing’ in the human exo-habitat where the human species’ sociality is entertained. This highly dynamic, trans-spherical and overlapping design may be represented by the following diagram (Fig. 1):

The Basis

The species-determined general architectural design of human communication:
the dynamic spherical design

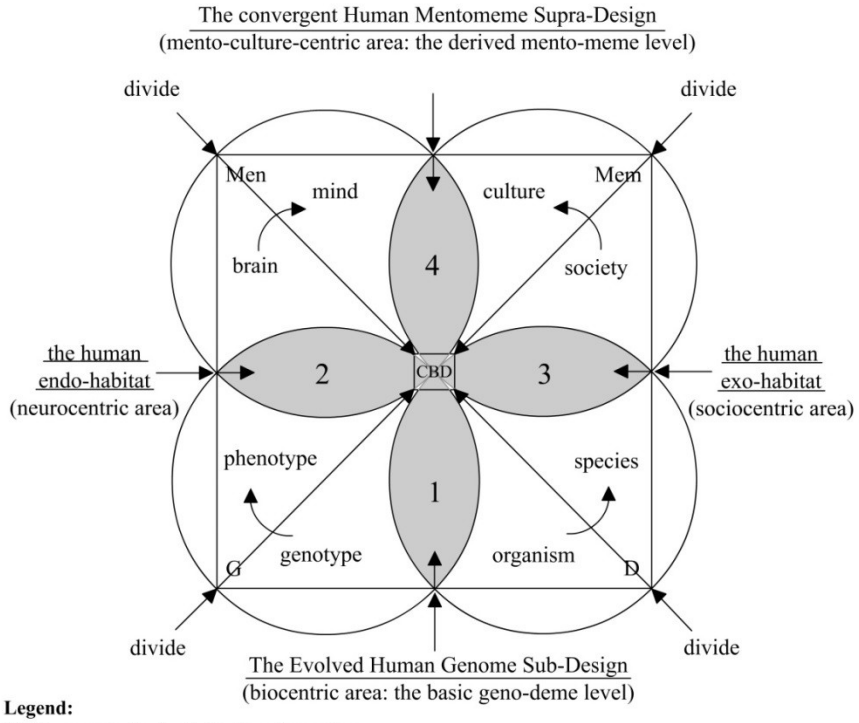

Fig. 1

The general architectural design of human communication

Within the design approach, human communication appears to be an extremely complex phenomenon where the key domains, represented by the four overlapping and cohesive spheres with transitions between their subfields, are involved in some kind of an architectural equilibrium. The intertwined and transient nature of this equilibrium (represented in the diagram by curved arrows), in turn, determines the evolutionary emergence and richness of human communicative dynamics in which it is embedded.

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