

I of III. Taylor article about categorization

1. The classical theory of categorization (attributed to the philosopher, Aristotle) claims that there is a set of 'necessary and sufficient' properties or traits that all entities share in order to belong to the same category.

a) What is meant by necessary?

b) What is meant by sufficient?

c) Name 3 necessary and sufficient traits in order for an entity to be categorized as a 'fish'.

2. In Labov' experiments involving prototypes, he distinguishes between tangible properties and functional ones.

a) What would be a tangible property for the category 'bed'?

b) What would be a functional property for the category 'bed'?

II. of III. Prototypes

A. List 5 or 6 properties (traits) for the concept "bed".

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

B. Rate each of the following entities for its *prototypicality* for the category "bed". In class be prepared to give reasons in support of your choices.

	Quite prototypical	Somewhat prototypical	Not at all prototypical
cot			
couch			
twin bed			
water bed			
hide-a-bed sofa			
lounge chair			
coffin			
futon			

C. The category 'bed' is considered to be a basic category. It belongs to the supracategory 'furniture' and it contains within it various subcategories (for example, some of the items listed in B. above).

Supply appropriate items in the following table:

Supracategory			mammal
Basic category	chair		
Subcategory		tulip	

III. California v Brown case

1. The principal question in this case is whether a California jury instruction violates the 8th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Look up these amendments and state why they are relevant to this case.
2. a. What are meant by “aggravating” and “mitigating” circumstances in a criminal case?
b. What would be an example of an “aggravating” condition for the defendant Brown, and what be an example of a “mitigating” one?
3. This case involves the claimed syntactic ambiguity of the jury instruction:
“You must not be swayed by mere sentiment, conjecture, sympathy, passion, prejudice, public opinion or public feeling”.
Show the ambiguity of this sentence by bracketing it in two different ways. (If you have forgotten how to do this, consult the first homework assignment on ambiguity.)
4. a. Which interpretation does Justice Rehnquist favor, and which one does Justice Brennan favor?
b. What reason(s) does Rehnquist give to support his interpretation?
c. What reason(s) does Brennan give to support his?