

Abstract

Ability to categorize objects and react to members of one category similarly is important for animals in the wild. They use this ability to recognize predators, sexual partners or a prey. Categories might be perceptual, associative or relational. Perceptual categories can be formed by different mechanisms, described by feature, exemplar and prototype theory. Stimuli used in the categorization studies are usually visual – they can be different types of pictures or real objects. This thesis summarizes studies focused on the perceptual categories (categories based on the perceptual similarity) and the relational categories (based on the relationship between objects) on an example same/different, in birds. The categorization in birds is mainly studied in the pigeons, other tested species are corvids or parrots. In pigeons the perceptual categorization is especially well studied, they can categorize a variety of objects according to the perceptual similarity, from natural ones to man-made ones. They predominantly use common features to add category members. On the other hand corvids are better than pigeons in ability to categorize objects according to the sameness/difference, because they require lower number of training stimuli to full understanding of the task.

Key words

categorization, concept, perceptual categories, feature, exemplar, prototype