Abstract

Episodic memory refers to an ability that allows a person to mentally re-enact past

events from his own life. This capacity was long considered to be uniquely human. The best

evidence of this ability in humans is subjective consciousness, which accompanies episodic

recollection. For this reason, it is particularly difficult to study such cognitive ability in other

animal species. However, there is some indirect evidence showing that animals could possess

the ability of episodic memory to some degree. This bachelor thesis summarizes recent

knowledge about episodic memory, provides an overview of specific studies in different

animal taxons and compares the methodologies used by various authors to demonstrate

episodic memory in animals. It focuses mainly on birds, rodents and primates.

KEYWORDS: Episodic memory, Episodic-like memory, Hippocampus, Cognitive ability,

Animal model