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Meaning in systems of complexity On a feel, and foundational experience

The starting point of this paper is a particular set of data, created by agents who were *unaware* of doing so. Five different groups of readers read a one-page long excerpt from Saint-Exupéry's *Le Petit Prince* in five different languages. The distribution of their responses correlates, in all five languages, with the aspectual semantics of the text that reflects its force-gestaltist diagrammatic core. This diagrammatic core underlies the problem-solution structure and its *wanting-to-know* sequences (Hoey 2001, Propp 1968 [1928]). The question asked in this paper concerns the factor that motivates the particular type of directedness of non-conscious awareness. What is it that is made visible by the data, and by which route does it operate?

The readers seem to signal the activation of an impulse that motivates the giving and the withholding of a response. The non-conscious activation of the impulse to act presumably relies on core emotional affects that are “defined in neural terms” (Panksepp 2005: 32). These core emotional affects that effect, among others, a *wanting-and-seeking* urge, seem to be the gist of the feel that drives the energetic action of humans and other mammals. When mediated through “signs” feelings are first instants (Peirce 1998 [1908]). They attach to the iconic core of the gestaltist relation, mediated by language, or non-language means. Feelings confirm “what happens” (Damasio 1999). How is that done? In the universe of discourse, language-mediated or not, there is always a “field of ‘distinct vision’ of the interpreter [and] the truth of the true consists in his being satisfied with it (Pietarinen 2011, citing Peirce).”

In sum, a neural underlay grounds an organism's string of energetic actions that are directed towards a goal. For attaining this goal, some discerning recognition of the objects of a seeking and a wanting is guided in this very process of recognition by the epistemic tool of the force-gestaltist icon of (diagrammatic) relations. This force-gestaltist diagrammatic core underlies the problem-solution structure of a narrative text. It is one of the most basic epistemic tools, both grounded in, shaped by, and shaping the conceptual *gestalt* of foundational experience, invoking the feel of the conceptual *real*, and bringing forth the satisfaction of knowing it. The data presented in this paper testify to this picture by suggestive evidence.

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