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INATTENTIONAL BLINDNESS AND PERCEPTION OF ILLUSORY CONTOURS

This paper seeks to address questions and variations regarding the importance of attention in the perception of illusory contours within the paradigm of *inattentional blindness*. Previous research has predominantly focused on the perception of illusory contours within the framework of Treisman's Feature integration theory, which can conditionally be regarded as a different approach to the theory of inattentional blindness. Inattentional blindness is a phenomenon in which stimuli that are presented to us are not perceived when we are engaged in a task that requires attention. This concept provides a direct insight into the necessity of attention in the perception of illusory contours, in a way that higher *inattentional blindness* requires a greater degree of attentional engagement. The first part of this study describes two experiments that examined the perception of one type of illusory contour - the illusory triangle. The experiments also sought to determine if there were specified differences in perception of these configurations, considering a position of presentation. In the first experiment the illusory triangle was displayed in the center, and in the second experiment on the periphery, in order to evaluate the potential for differential perception. The second part of this study discusses two additional experiments examined the perception of contoured forms as a variation to the controls detailed in part one of the study. The purpose of these additional experiments was to compare two groups that worked in inattentional conditions in order to examine differences in the processing and perception of illusory and non-illusory contours (contoured form). The findings that the phenomenon of *inattentional blindness* is evident in the perception of both contour variations, implies the need for engagement of attention in order to form a holistic perception. The findings also demonstrate that the position of these stimuli has a tangible effect on inattention perception.

Keywords: visual attention, inattention blindness, illusory contours, contoured forms

„SLJEPILO USLJED NEPAŽNJE” I OPAŽANJE ILUZORNIH KONTURA

Ova studija proučava značaj i ulogu vizuelne pažnje u percepciji iluzornih kontura

kroz paradigmu „sljepila usljed nepažnje”. Prethodna istraživanja su ovaj problem uglavnom ispitivala u okviru Trizmanove teorije integracije karakteristika, koja se, uslovno rečeno, može smatrati opozitnom pristupu zasnovanom na „sljepilu usljed nepažnje”. To je fenomen neregistrovanja prezentovanih stimulusa kada je pažnja fokusirana na određeni zadatak. Ovaj pristup omogućava direktan uvid u prisustvo pažnje u percepciji, na način da veća količina „sljepila usljed nepažnje” ukazuje na neophodnost većeg angažovanja pažnje. Prvi dio studije se odnosi na dva eksperimenta u kojima se ispituje percepcija jednog tipa iluzornih kontura-iluzornog trougla. Cilj tih eksperimenata je bio ispitivanje postojanja određenih razlika u opažanju obih figura u zavisnosti od pozicije izlaganja. U prvom eksperimentu je iluzorni trougao prikazan u centru, a u drugom na periferiji. Drugi dio studije se odnosi na ispitivanje percepcije realne figure, odnosno geometrijskog oblika trougla. Cilj dodatnih eksperimenata je bio ispitivanje razlika u obradi i opažanju iluzornih i kompletiranih formi. Rezultati istraživanja pokazuju da je fenomen „sljepila usljed nepažnje” veoma izražen u percepciji oba tipa figura, što ukazuje na potrebu aktiviranja pažnje u stvaranju cjelovitog percepta. Rezultati, takođe, pokazuju da pozicija stimulusa ima određen uticaj na percepciju u uslovima nepažnje.

Ključne riječi: vizuelna pažnja, sljepilo usljed nepažnje, iluzorne konture, realne konture