

Whasanian

Synesthesia

(Cross-curriculum issue)

(Alumni) Wong Yip San Sunny

Our brain relies on our five senses – sight, sound, smell, taste and touch – to know what’s happening around us. Synesthesia (聯覺) is when two or more senses are activated at the same time. Some people describe it as having “wires crossed” in their brain. It is an unusual neurological phenomenon in which the stimulation of one sensory pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences.

There are around 2-5% people who are synesthetes and there are 80 different types of synesthesia. Here are some examples of synesthesia:

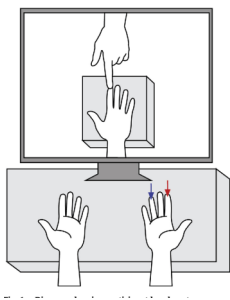


Chromesthesia (Sound-colour synesthesia)

It involves seeing specific colour when hearing certain sound. People with this type of synesthesia are consciously aware of their synthetic color association in daily life. Musicians and artists are often described having this form.

Grapheme-color synesthesia

‘Grapheme’ refers to the smallest part of a written language, like a letter number or symbol. This type of synesthesia involves seeing different graphemes with specific colors. The color associations vary among people, but many people see certain letters in the same color. The letters or numbers appear in the person's mind as if they were physically written in the air.

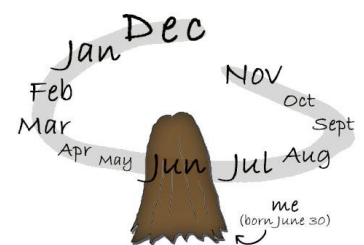


Mirror-touch synesthesia

It is when a person feels the same sensation of touch when they see something happen to someone else. For example, if they see someone rub their eyes, they will feel hands rubbing their own eyes. When they see someone get hurt, they will feel the pain too, to a certain extent.

Number-form synesthesia

It is when numbers, days or alphabets appear as a mental map in someone's mind. Such people may visualize numbers in a sequence physically surrounding them or in front of them. It sometimes coincides with grapheme-color synesthesia too.



The Age of Discovery

(Alumni) Hui Ka Chun Augustine

During the Age of Discovery (the 1400s-1600s), European explorers made many voyages to many places.



Christopher Columbus



Ferdinand Magellan

Why did the Age of Discovery begin?

Western countries wanted to find a sea route to India and China in order to make profits from the trade with Asian countries and to search for new lands to build large empires. Also, it was funny that some people thought that gold was everywhere in India and China!

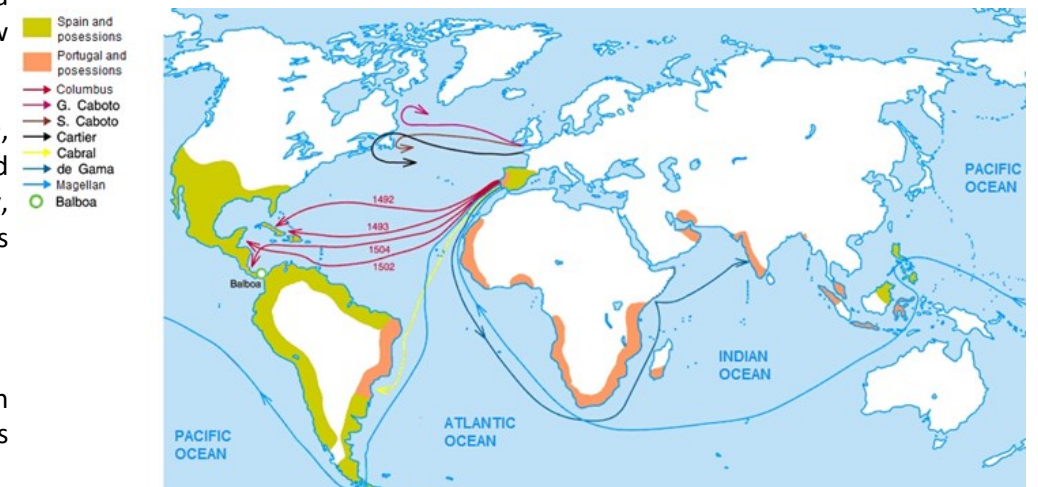
Major achievements

Christopher Columbus was famous for his discovery of America. In 1492, Spain gave Columbus three ships to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean. Not long after, he arrived at the Bahamas, Cuba and Haiti, but he thought that he reached India instead of a new land. Some years later, Amerigo Vespucci said that it was a new land which was named after him - America.

Ferdinand Magellan and his sailors made the first voyage around the world. In 1519, Magellan sailed south across the Atlantic Ocean with five Spanish ships. He reached the southernmost tip of America and sailed into the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, when he arrived at the Philippines, he was killed by the natives. His sailors continued to sail and they finally reached Spain in 1522.

What are the effects of the Age of Discovery?

After the Age of Discovery, people knew more about the world. Trade between Europe, America, Africa and Asia grew. It promoted further cultural exchanges between the East and the West.



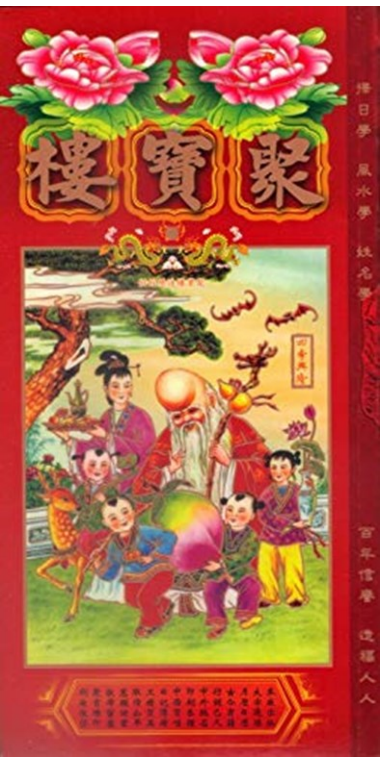
Tung Shing

Tung Shing, a.k.a. Wong Lik (the ‘Yellow Calendar’), was also called Tung Shu, literally meaning an ‘All-knowing Book’. However, in Chinese pronunciation, the word shu (book) is a homophone of the word ‘defeated’, so Tung Shu sounded like ‘Defeated in All Things’. Therefore, it was changed to Tung Shing, which means ‘Victorious in All Things’.

This traditional Chinese calendar is one that can display multiple calendars such as the Gregorian calendar, the lunar calendar, and the Ganzhi calendar at the same time, and is appended with a large number of rules and content related to seeking good luck and avoiding evil. It not only includes astronomy, weather and seasons, but also some taboos that people must abide by in daily life. Its content guides Chinese working farmers on the timing of farming, so it is also called the farmers’ calendar.

As many people know, it has been used by many fung shui practitioners to help people select dates and times for important events like marriages. Most days in the Tung Shing are marked as being lucky for some things, and unlucky for others. For example, one day might be marked as an unlucky day to purchase a house, but a good day to start a business. The same is true for weddings. There are some days that are considered generally better for marriage, and some considered bad. If you can pick one of these good dates, and avoid the days marked as unlucky for marriage, then you are headed in the right direction.

Fun fact: Have you ever known that people in the past also used it to learn English?



Place	Street	Throughfare	Father	Worker	Labour	Student
Garden	Park	Opera	Police	Soldier	Sailor	Student
Tea-house	Ballroom	Cinema	Cook	Store man	Comrade	Comrade
Dining-hall	Cafe	Restaurant	Artist	Host	Guest	Guest
Playground	Court	Hotel	He	You	I	I
Swimming pool	Automobile	Train	Mother	Father	Man	Man
Motor cycle	Private car	Tram	Brother	Younger brother	Uncle	Uncle
Bicycle	Wharf	Motor boat	Wife	Husband	Nephew	Nephew
Residence	Wooden ship	Motor boat	Girl	Daughter	Son	Son
Kitchen	Water closet	Room	Baby	Woman	Son-in-law	Son-in-law
Hotel	Parlour	Company	Good fellow	Friend	Old man	Old man
Bar	Shop	Clinic house	Sky	Wind	Rain	Rain
Hospital	Stall	Market	Snow	Cold	Cool	Cool
Food	Vegetable	Animal	Water	Heat	Hot	Hot
Belly	Sugar	Sugar	Fire alarm	Day	Land	Land
Orange	Banana	Leam	Morning	Night	Dark	Dark
Watermelon	Pine apple	Sugar cane	Red	Yellow	Green	Green
Rice	Groundnut	Confectionery	Black	White	White	White

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Vice Principal Mr. FOO Yun Wai

Ms. LEUNG Tze Yan

Idol worship in Hong Kong

(Alumni) Wong Cheuk Man Anson

Idol worship is a common phenomenon in Hong Kong. To cite an instance, Mirror, a local boy band, has become incredibly popular in the Hong Kong in these few years. Be it adolescents, adults or children, most of them are fans of Mirror. On the contrary, some years ago, people in Hong Kong were more likely to worship idols from foreign countries such as BIGBANG from South Korea and One Direction from the UK.

One reason why Hong Kongers started to become fans of local idols is that they started to notice the significance of supporting the local music industry and the Cantopop culture. They have started to pay their attention to various local artists, ranging from singers to actors. Not only Mirror, other idol groups like Collar or singers like MC Cheung and Panther Chan have also become famous in Hong Kong thanks to the support of fellow Hong Kongers.

Groupies

Sometimes, people can get very addicted to their idols and become what we call ‘groupies’ – people who like a particular singer or famous person and follows them to try to meet them. They spare no expense to follow the public figures while they are on tour and attend as many of their events as possible, hoping to meet them. They join the fan clubs of their idols and get connected with other fans.



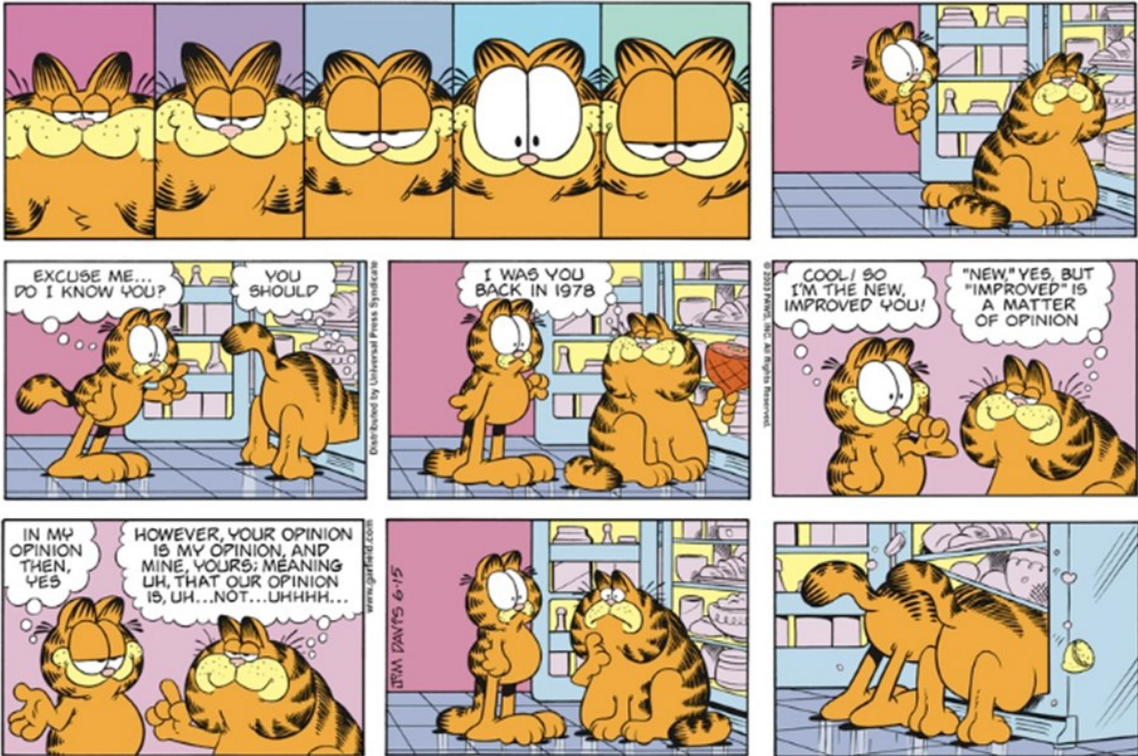
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