

INRC Group Structures in Color Aesthetics

Hyun Sub Yun, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology
Kangwon National University
Chuncheon, 200-701, Korea
Fax: 82-361-51-8182

The consciousness of color in human experience are very important, and most of all they are loaded with significant meanings. In fine art, a revolution in color was made by impressionist painters, and the colors used by impressionists have influenced many streams of the 20th century modern arts. Seurat, for instance, employed the Chevreull's color law, and created his pointilism: Pointilism means that juxtaposing two contrasting colors make each color be more vivid (Welton, 1993). What is distinct in impressionism is that each color symbolized some meaning, and Delacroix, for instance, was the forerunner of the color theory of meaning. Delacroix hypothesizes that colors symbolize human emotional consciousnesses (Birren, 1986). In the field of fine art, there have been various attempts to identify the laws underlying the color system perceivable by humans (Birren, 1987; Gerstner, 1986). However, no distinct law has been so far emerged. Especially, it has not yet been thought of that the color system can be analyzable by any logico-mathematical laws.

This study has two objectives: (1) Identifying the laws of color system, and (2) identifying the laws of human consciousness of colors. The conclusion that will be drawn is that some logico-mathematical laws are embedded in the color system which can be perceived by a man. This study takes a priori analytic approach. The present investigator has been keeping the hypothesis that any human conscious experiences can be analyzable by Piaget-Inhelder's INRC Group structural laws, if the conscious experiences are really matured human experiences. Therefore, this study starts with the assumption that human consciousnesses in colors can be analyzable with Piaget-Inhelder's INRC group structural laws, and the color system per se can be analyzable with Piaget-Inhelder's INRC group structural laws.

Piaget-Inhelder's group structural laws are (1) Identity which means a proposition as it is, (2) Negation which means the nullifying the proposition, (3) Reciprocity which means the opposite proposition,

and (4) Correlativity which means the nullifying the Reciprocity proposition: Mathematically speaking, if the Identity means "+5", then the Negation means "+0", the Reciprocity means "-5", and the Correlativity means "-0". This study samples one particular color, Mauve as a starting point of this study: This means the Mauve is Identity. If so, its Negation means negating the color of Mauve, and here it means light Pinkish Mauve or Pink. The Reciprocity of the Mauve is Yellow, and its negation which is Correlativity is Light-Yellow. Painters can and often use the four colors in their paintings: But they were not conscious of the INRC group structural laws embedded in the four color system.

What has been attempted here is to

identify the aesthetic semantics of the four color system, and the laws embedded in the aesthetic semantics. Mauve is the color symbolizing the Nobility or Heavenness, and Yellow is the color symbolizing the Humanness or Earthiness. In these semantics, the semantics of their Negation or Correlativity can be automatically generated. If so, the semantics of the four colors also keep the INRC group structural laws? This is the question pursued here seriously. The statistical model to test the hypotheses here is LISREL. Even though INRC relationships can not be perfectly tested with LISREL, the causality of LISREL is hypothetically equated with logical transformations of the four group structural laws. For instance, if Identity is to be transformed to Negation, the causality direction is from the Identity to the Negation, although path coefficients may not be decreased. If, the direction of causal movement is proceeded from the Identity construct to the Negation construct, then the logico-mathematical relationship is hypothesized to be observed. Therefore, a theoretical model is hypothetically constructed, which is shown in Appendix-A.

What culminated in Piaget-Inhelder's INRC group structural laws is the equilibrium relationship between Identity and Reciprocity: Equilibrium is the combination of Negation with Reciprocity. Here, if the color of Mauve is reciprocal to the color of Yellow, then they can form an equilibrium relationship meaning that Mauve and Yellow counterbalances each other. The proposition that Mauve and Yellow counterbalances each other means that if Mauve is getting darker, then Yellow will be also darker, or the Yellow can negate the darkness of Mauve to the extent that the darkness of Mauve will be equal to the darkness of the Yellow. It may be interesting to analyze paintings with Yellow and Mauve, to see whether the darkness of Mauve and Yellow are equal or different. It is the hypothesis of this study that a painter would not paint a too dark mauve flower with a very light yellow and vice versa.

The color aesthetic semantics identified here are also tested with INRC group structural laws. That is, it is tested whether the meaning of Mauve which is Heavenly is reciprocal to the meaning of Yellow which is Earthy or not. And it is explored how is the semantic relationship between the Mauve and Pink, and between the Yellow and Light-Yellow. LISREL permits to test the causality between Pink and Mauve, but the direction of causality permitted is from Pink and Mauve; however, it permits to test the direction of causality between Yellow and Light-Yellow from the Yellow to the Light-Yellow. Because of the limit imposed by LISREL Piaget-Inhelder's INRC group structural laws are not perfectly statistically tested. But it is explored how Piaget-Inhelder's groups structural laws can be configured statistically.

In testing the four colors and the semantic laws with INRC group structural laws, a particular assumption is made here: That human aesthetic consciousnesses in colors are cognitive and are the cognition is nothing but logico-mathematical. Romanticists and the modern aesthetic ideologies like Surrealists claim that aesthetic human consciousness are emotional. But this study takes the classical views on Art, meaning that Arts are the representations of human reasons which are the laws of order, harmony and beautiful ratio. One thing this study adds to the classicism on Art is that the laws of order, harmony and beautiful ratio is like Piaget-Inhelder's INRC group structural laws and its equilibrium law.

The type of modern art theory arguing that Art is the product of human bodily libido energy is to be negated with the result of this study on color aesthetics. The reason for why colors instead of forms are tested is because colors are traditionally interpreted as the symbol for human emotions. Here it is tested that even human emotions or color consciousness is cognitive. The artist like Yve Kline who paints with human body or like Jackson Pollock who paints with sexually violent action should be prepared with the scientifically valid empirical data showing that color consciousness or aesthetic consciousness are generated by human bodily libido. This means their beloved human body and sex for art should be empirically analyzed into testable constructs and the constructs should be tested quantitatively. When here the quantitative test for human cognition in color aesthetics is done, why not they.

Methods

Subjects: 206(m=85 and f=121)subjects
were randomly selected from K-University. The subjects were the

students enrolled introductory psychology in K-University.

Tools(Scales) Used: Eight scales were developed by the present investigator. Originally four universal scales(one scale for each color) were developed, and factor-analyses selected the final items, and constructed the final eight scales(twe scales for each color). The itmes with their factor loading of above .40 were selectted as valid items.

Four paintings of flowere were made by the present investigator: Mauve Flower painting, Pink Flower painting, Yellow Flower painting, and Light-Yellow Flower painting. The four paintings were identical in their form, only the color of flowers were different from each other. Mauve represents Idnetity, Pink represents its Negation, Yellow represents its Reciprocity, and Light-Yellow represents the negation of Reciprocity. (Please see the actual paintings.)

Procedures:(1) Itemconstruction: 100(m=50, f=50) subjects who were the psychology major students viewed each painting, and stated their impressions or feelings or thoughts on each painting in a delcarative sentence form. On the basis of the students' responses, the present investigater constructed the universal four scales.

(2) Final Study: About 70 students in one time as a group viewed each painting, and rated its likeliness on the 8-points scale. For instance, if the subject felt toward Mauve-Flower as "mystic" strongly, then s/he rated from 7 to 8 point. The total time taken to complete the scales was about 20 minutes.

Statistical Analyses: (1)Factor-Analysis: Principal component analysis with Varimax rotation was used for the construction of the final eight scales. Spss-x package was used.

(2) Final Study: LISREL 7.16 was used for the final convariance ststructure analysis.

Results

The obtained data were analyzed into a correlation matrix: The analyzed correlations were shown in the Table-1. Correlation data were used for the LISREL analysis. As you can see in the Appendix-1, the obtained path-coefficients were quite good. First of all, the Goodness of Fit Index was .972 which is very significant, and its Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index was .934.

These statistics show that the theoretical model constructed here has been proved as a valid model. Each measured variable was also significantly explained by their theoretical variables. GA11 was strong, BE21 was even stronger, and BE32 was strong: Interestingly enough, BE12 was negative, which was -2.74. Whether the sign difference between BE21 and BE12 can be interpreted as the statistical indication of Piaget-Inhelder's equilibrium should be further discussed, however, this study interpretes that it is not. Rather it shows that when Mauve gets strong, its Reciprocal Yellow gets also strong, but when Yellow gets strong, its Reciprocal Mauve get weaker. These semantics are very difficult to interpret, although they are very interesting. These will be discussed in the Discussion.

Table 1: Correlations among Variables

Results

As the two GFI show, the theoretical model constructed here has been proved to be a valid model. What this model explains, thoguh, need some discussions. This study present the following five explanatory interpretations as to the present theoretical model for color aesthetics:

(1)As far as Piaget-Inhelder's INRC group structural laws are concerned, the equilibrium relationship which is expressed as the reciprocal causality shown in the model has been shown to be some particular causality; BE21 was +2.17 amd BE12 was -2.74; the two absolute values were quite balanced, however the sign of each number is opposite; BE21 shows that Mauve and Yellow get stronger with equal powers, when the color moves from Mauve to Yellow; however, Yellow causes less Mauve, when the color moves from Yellow to Mauve; what these two findings are telling us?; it seems the following four theoretical propositions as to the two colors can be drawm;

(a) if Mauve is the major color in a painting and Yellow is the minor color, then the darkness or lightness of the two colors are equal;

(b) if Yellow is the major color and Mauve is the minor color in a painting, then Yellow opporesses Mauve; this oppression means if Yellow is strong, its minor Mauve should be light;

(c) it is more likely that a painter paints Mauve as the first expression of color than Yellow, if the darknesses of the two colors are to be identical;

(d) it is more likely that a painter paints Yellow as the first expression of color than Mauve, if the darknesses of the two colors are to be different.

(2) GA11(1.08) shows a very meaning statistical power; this finding shows that the logic of color expression in painting moves from light Mauve or Pink to a darker Mauve rather than vica versa; of course, some painter starts his/her color expression beginning with dark Mauve and moves to light Pink;

however, the finding of this study shows, it is more causally logical to move from light to dark, which here from Pink to Mauve; this logic shows a crecendo-like color expression rather a decrecendo-like color expression; and it is very likely that many painter starts their color expression from light to dark; another interesting finding was GA31(.243); this statistic shows there is a moderate level of causality from Pink to Lihgt-Yellow, which shows another type of equilibrium relationship; this is Piaget-Inhelder's equilibrium relationship showing that if Pink gets stronger, then its Reciprocity Lihgt-Yellow gets also stronger, and not vica versa.

(3) BE32 was 1.05, which shows that there is a very meaningful causality from Yellow to Light-Yellow; the direction of causality was from Yellow to Light-Yellow; this direction shows that the logical direction of color expression is from Yellow to Light-Yellow, meaning that it is more logical to paint starting with Yellow and move to Light-Yellow rather than vica versa. It is a very good empirical question, whether any painter first expresses Yellow and then expresses Light-Yellow or not.

(4) The model as a whole tells that the universal causality moves starting from Pink, to Mauve, to Yellow, and finally to Light-Yellow, and not from Yellow to Mauve; this relationship tells us that the logic of color expression starts from a light, then to a dark, and then its reciprocal dark, and finally to a light. Psychologically interpreting, the color expression in aesthetics begins with some light, tender, and soft thoguhts and feelings, and then move to dark, strong, and rational thoughts and feelings which could be the themes of one aesthetic substance, and then expresses their reciprocal thoughts and feelings with an equal strength, and finally concludes with a reciprocal, but light, tender, and soft thoughts and feelings; these psychological processes of color aesthetics are experimented here with Pink, Mauve, Yellow and Light-Yellow.

(5) As a conlusive explanation, human color consciousnesses can be analyzed into four major components, which are INRC group structural laws; and the psychological meaning of color aesthetics can be quantitatively explored, and semantically interpreted depending on the particular colors tested; in here the

four colors, Mauve, Pink, Yellow and Light-Yellow are explored as to their expressive logic and generative causality; humans express or generate color logics not randomly or not by bodily libido, but by logico-mathematical laws; and any colors can be logically grouped, and the artistic or aesthetic grouping of various colors are law-binded like INRC group structural relationships; why a painter expresses one color with another color is also logically explainable and analyzable; and finally the human psychic consciousnesses of color aesthetics are also law-binded like INRC group structural laws.

Bibliography

Birren, Faber (1986) Color Perception in Art. Schiffer, Pa.

Birren, Faber (1987) Principles of Color. Schiffer, Pa.

Gerstner, Karl (1986) The Forms of Color. M.I.T. Press.

Inhelder, B., & Piaget, J. (1958) The Growth of Logical Thinking from Childhood to Adolescence. New York: Basic Books.

Welton, Jude (1993) Impressionism. Dorling Kindersley in Association with the Art Institute of Chicago.