

## Superconscious processes as mental images of a higher order (in the context of telezombification)

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** The paper aims to examine superconscious processes as mental images of a higher order in the context of telezombification.

**Materials and Methods:** The authors used interpretive research paradigm, psychoanalysis, basic principles of hermeneutics, phenomenological approach along with general scientific methods, such as induction, deduction, generalization, etc.

**Conclusions:** With the beginning of the russian full-scale attack on Ukraine, russian atrocities in Bucha, Mariupol and other cities and villages of the country, many Ukrainian citizens asked about what has happened to the russian society, the state authorities, who set the goal of destroying Ukraine as a state and all its inhabitants as a nation. Then Ukrainians have labelled the invaders and the authorities of Russia as non-humans. And this is a fair name for them. The fact is that these occupiers and their neo-Nazi leaders have destroyed, distorted consciousness as a result of which they became incapable of realizing their thought processes. The consciousness of such persons gradually degrades towards animal thinking, the so-called proto-thinking. This is one direction to not realizing one's intentions and actions at the level of both subconscious and partially conscious analysis of primary mental images (images of a first and second orders). The second direction is the role of superconscious processes, in particular mental images of a higher level, which also form the worldview positions of an individual in the process of viewing and listening to certain information, while remaining, at the same time, unconscious until a certain time. Together, these directions form a person's attitude to existing social and worldview problems.

**KEY WORDS:** consciousness; psyche; superconscious; psychic images; high-order images; russian-Ukrainian war; telezombification; telezombified personality

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## INTRODUCTION

Given the title of the paper, there is a need to explain the modern approach to the concepts of subconscious and superconscious. To date, the problem of the superconscious has been studied much less than the problem of the unconscious and subconscious. The term "superconscious" was introduced in psychology in contrast to the popularity of theories of the subconscious, but a strict division of the concepts has not been carried out yet. If in relation to the concepts of subconsciousness and superconsciousness, they are spatially separated (one is "under" and the other is "above"), then in relation to the concepts of "unconscious", "subconscious" it is more difficult to do this. First of all, let's briefly define these

concepts. The unconscious in this sense is perceived as a set of mental states and processes that are carried out without consciousness. That is, the entire set of unconscious processes is called unconscious in general.

"Subconscious" we understand as the mental material that is not currently conscious, but which in principle can be conscious or was once conscious. This also includes the classic unconscious according to Z. Freud [1] – mental material that was repressed due to its incompatibility with human moral values. The concept of "unconscious" is broader: it includes both the unconscious and psychic material that has never been and may never be conscious (for example, K. Jung's collective unconscious) [2].

In the mental sphere, Z. Freud distinguishes three areas according to the hierarchical principle: subconsciousness, consciousness and superconsciousness. The subconscious of the unconscious appears, on the one hand, as a naturally determined component of the psyche, and on the other – as a component, the content of which is determined by the individual's past experience. The superconscious of the unconscious are factors determined by the structure of the cultural space, in which an individual operates, which are realized but not regulated psychologically. For example, a person speaks without paying attention to the principles of the functioning of language; participates in political actions discovering later that their results were something far beyond his/her intentions and goals; uses devices often without knowing anything about their development.

The subconscious is a psychological system that is located in the deep layers of the human psyche and is manifested only in extraordinary cases and with the help of special techniques. The deep layers of the psyche are what is "under" consciousness, that is, located in the depths of the psyche, directly "under consciousness". The subconscious mind differs from consciousness in that the reality reflected by it merges with the subject's experiences, his/her attitudes, therefore, arbitrary control over the actions performed by an individual and evaluation of the results are impossible in the subconscious. In the subconscious, the past, the present, and the future often coexist uniting in a single mental act (for example, in a dream). The term "subconscious" was used by P. Janet [3, 4] for designation of mental processes that flow without reflecting them in consciousness and outside conscious control.

The subconscious mind is mental material that is outside of consciousness, but is involved in the regulation of behavior, so it is accessible to objective study and awareness. The unconscious is the content of the psyche where virtual images, emotions and urges arise, which can potentially become regulators of behavior or the content of dreams, but can disappear forever. Everyday experience passes through awareness, and everything that is perceived is stored in consciousness, that is, consciousness is conscious experience. Everything that we are not aware of enters the subconscious.

Between the conscious and the subconscious there is a "Keeper" that maintains the balance between these two structures. In addition, the experience is also fixed in the body, since the latter has a kind of memory. The higher "I" is an intuitive personal beginning that performs integrative and coordinating functions between the specified structures (conscious, subconscious, body) and connects this system with the surrounding world. R. Assagioli, the founder of the psychosynthesis, set the

goal of bringing the versatile material of the unconscious to consciousness integrating it and achieving a synthesis of this material with consciousness in the process of self-discovery [5].

The division into subconsciousness and superconsciousness is carried out according to a different principle. Both can refer to the unconscious as a whole, and to its unconscious part, in other words, it can be potentially accessible to consciousness or it can be in such depths that the light of consciousness may not reach. The main difference between the subconscious and superconscious, in our opinion, lies in the plane of time. The subconscious as actual mental information is in the past, it does not matter whether we understand it in Freud's terms as repressed from consciousness (that is, the former was previously conscious) or as Jung's collective unconscious (which will never appear in individual consciousness) – it's all in the past. The collective unconscious is a kind of ancestral memory. It is mainly represented by early childhood experiences. The superconscious is in the future – it is something that will be realized in the future as meanings, ideas, and experiences.

The abovementioned is important for theoretical scientific psychological discussions about the meaning of concepts, definitions, etc., as well as for practical implications, first of all, for the awareness of many social processes taking place around us: how to form our attitudes towards them; our social positions; our place and role as the co-participants and creators of these processes; our awareness of ourselves as personalities; our responsibility for everything that happens to us. Everything that was mentioned closely related to the superconscious processes of the formation of the high-order images (HO), which a person perceives from the TV screen in visual and verbal form. Such images tend to affect the worldview of an individual and determine his/her attitude to everything that happens in society [6, 7].

## AIM

The paper aims to examine superconscious processes as mental images of a higher order in the context of telezombification.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The authors used interpretive research paradigm, psychoanalysis, basic principles of hermeneutics, phenomenological approach along with general scientific methods, such as induction, deduction, generalization, etc.

## REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Psychologists wrote about the connection between the superconscious and the future at the end of the last century. It mostly concerned scientific and artistic creativity. For example, K. Stanislavsky singled out a special component of the creative process and called it “superconsciousness” – the highest level of the creative process, which differs from both its conscious and unconscious components. Scientific or artistic creativity is always directed to the future, the act of enlightenment itself does not complete, but only initiates the activity of creating a work, and the work gives rise to numerous social and cultural processes that will continue. Over time, along with artistic and scientific creativity, love, the choice of a profession, the choice of one’s point of view about the world: one’s place in society, the meaning of one’s life (how I live, whether I live with dignity, the faithfulness of my decisions, what awaits me and my children in the future, my responsibility for supporting and promoting anti-human, anti-social ideas, etc.). It is easy to see that these are also phenomena that begin in the present and stretch into the future [8]. Love leads to the creation of a family, the birth of children, i.e., new generation. The chosen profession allows people to realize their potential in the future. The social position and responsibility (as a social creator) will also necessarily manifest itself in the future.

The next difference between the superconscious and the subconscious is that superconscious processes always lead to the creation of a new mental product, which did not exist before. The difference between these two levels (subconscious and superconscious) can be explained by a simple example. In the process of recalling any event, an individual reproduces previously learned information that is stored at the subconscious level. Solving a creative or social (political) task, a person creates new information that did not previously exist either in his/her individual or social experience. It is realized after it was acquired (though not always in its true sense). In this case, the work of thought is carried out at a superconscious level.

And the other difference is related to the cognitive processes that underlie this phenomenon. The superconscious turns out to be connected to thinking processes, because thinking is engaged in solving problems, testing hypotheses, and generating a new product. So, the activity of superconsciousness is the activity of thinking, which is not realized, but remains a cognitive process. If we talk about the subconscious in terms of cognitive processes, it is rather memory.

As a possible mechanism of the work of the superconscious, the formation of mental images of the real HO can occur. Until now, researchers described two groups

of mental images: primary and secondary (perceptions and representations) [9]. The first ones are perceptions. The second are the images that are in our memory, the represent specific objects and phenomena. For instance, these are the images of a house, a tree, a parent or a relative, the stages of our childhood, etc. These are the images of the second order. The HO images are formed based on the primary and secondary ones in the psyche [10]. They are formed as a result of the accumulation of scientific information, which is located in the images of the lower order. Our model is close to the concept of memory as dual encoding – this information will be realized in the future in the form of meanings, ideas, and experiences.

In many theories of consciousness, the “sensory fabric of the image” is included in the structure of consciousness, and these are the images of perception (primary images, and in our terms – images of zero order). Presumably, the images included in consciousness without an external stimulus will be secondary, that is, concrete pictures or sounds. Therefore, in order to become conscious, in most cases the HO image must perform an operation that is the opposite of generalization, i.e. anti-prototyping: from the multitude of generalized images, one of a lower order will be selected, and it will be the one that will become part of the act of consciousness and be associated with the word [10].

In any case, we can influence the content of moral, aesthetic, and intellectual standards by repeatedly showing a person the image of the desired object. The possibility of such a phenomenon, at least for some low-order images, is proved by the effectiveness of modern means of propaganda. In fact, the TV screen bombards a person with the images of success, wonderful things or enemies and horrors. It is believed that the effectiveness of propaganda through the imposition of the HO images is not even in the fact that a person will remember information, but in the fact that it will be generalized and integrated already without the participation of human consciousness forming new standards and patterns of behavior. At the same time, it does not matter whether a person agrees with the displayed information or is outraged by it.

Therefore, the awareness of the HO images, in contrast to verbal logical thinking, the generalization of visual information in a person, occurs without the participation of consciousness. And this is important to remember. In general, the creative productivity of a person depends on two factors. The first is the formation of an “appropriate” HO image. The second is awareness of the information contained in the HO image. However, even goals, motives and psychological qualities are not always consciously formed by a person, but the

influence of personality on conscious processes still exists. Let's repeat that during the formation of the HO images, there is a generalization of visual information received from the outside world.

Let's note once more that the HO images are formed beyond the control of consciousness. They are formed in the process of summarizing visual information coming from the senses. Images of the second order are classic secondary images – images of specific objects; images of the third order are images of the generalization of objects, their visualization as a contour; images of the fourth and fifth order are representations of the highest level of generalization, which are spatial and are rooted in the visual world. The subconscious is associated with the images of the second or third order, which represent in a figurative form the memory material repressed from consciousness.

Superconsciousness is associated with the formation of the images of the fourth and fifth orders. Here we can highlight four functions of such images in superconscious processes. Firstly, such images can be unconscious moral, philosophical, and psychological standards or mathematical generalizations. Secondly, they can be formed in the process of solving certain tasks (for example, to watch or not to watch war propaganda) as unconscious gestalts that summarize all available information. Thirdly, in the HO images, a person can elaborate ideas for artistic or scientific works, "guidelines" for understanding the world around us. Fourthly, high-order images can "shape" the processes of intuition as long as they remain unconscious.

It should be noted that the relationship between the images of the superconscious and consciousness is quite complex. Despite the fact that the HO images are unconscious, their formation is influenced by the quantity and quality of perceived visual information, as well as the motives, goals, and desires of a person. The easiest way to manage the unconscious formation of such an image is through the correct selection of incoming information. Firstly, human life experience is different, people live in different cities, meet different people, choose different professions – all this determines their image of the world, which is individual for each person, despite the fact that the world around us is one-unified. Secondly, the well-known phenomenon of the "selectivity of perception": a person in the surrounding world mostly "sees" what corresponds to his/her interests and values and does not notice what does not fit into his/her picture of the world. It turns out that, on the one hand, the selectivity of attention is determined by personal characteristics and, on the other hand, it shapes these characteristics of the personality [10].

Generalization and integration will take place without human will, and therefore, after some time, his/her

value orientations will still begin to change. The proof is the effectiveness of intrusive advertising: regardless of our dissatisfaction by the very fact of advertising and the displayed goods, the level of sales increases after each advertising campaign. However, even with the help of such massive imposition of images, non-verbal patterns can only be slightly transformed, but not fundamentally changed, since visual information comes not only through the mass media. For the HO images, which are in the process of solving certain tasks, the personal factor is more significant than the images of standards. But the role of the individual's consciousness as a whole is still limited to setting goals, motives and selecting information.

The first thing a person can do is to set a goal, for example, not to watch and listen to the russian TV presenter O. Skabeyeva. After all, only an individual determines whether he/she needs to think about what he/she has heard and seen and change something in his/her world-view. However, it is a challenge for russian people not to watch these kremlin propagandists of violence and war, neo-Nazi ideology in general on the TV screen, when they zombify the population of their country every day with such powerful charisma, expression, and shouts. And TV viewers watch and watch again. And the worst thing is that these broadcasts are not banned either by the authorities or by public institutions. Goebbels's propaganda of Nazism in the thirties of the last century in Germany in comparison with the current kremlin propaganda is just a child's game. Even there, the representatives of the Aryan nation eventually believed that they were really blue bloods and a supnation. As they say, "don't believe your eyes". And it is no coincidence that today visual perception is associated with thinking. In our interpretation, sight is not a physiological process only, but a psychic, mental one.

The second is information. Only the information available to the individual, provided in accordance with his/her knowledge and life experience, is generalized. That is why the russian or even pro-russian TV viewer turned out to be very premonitory within this frame. Information is not limited to the source; it can come and continue in the process of further zombification. But in any case, the less available information, the lower the probability that when superimposing images, a solution will be able to stand out, which will turn out to be decisive. Here, the most important factor is awareness of information obtained as a result of superconscious processes. After all, in modern psychology, consciousness is considered in three modalities: as a process, as a stable functional system, and as ability.

Let's note once again – the superconscious in the psyche appears in the form of the HO images that are formed in the process of summarizing visual information. As a result

of such a generalization, complex non-verbal gestalts are formed, which can perform several roles in the context of the superconscious. Firstly, they can be factors of moral, cognitive, etc. patterns of behavior. Secondly, in the form of an unconscious HO image a person may get ideas not only about artistic or scientific creativity, but also worldviews. Thirdly, the formation of the HO images can be a part of thinking that provides an unconscious solution to creative, intellectual, or worldview problems. Fourthly, they can be one of the mechanisms of intuition. Other roles are possible too. Part of the roles are performed by the HO images already formed by the superconsciousness. Performing other roles requires that the image is formed in the process. The most static are the HO images that perform the function of a standard. Some authors assume the existence of certain non-verbal constructs in the psyche, which a person is oriented towards, is fully aware of, but cannot explain their essence.

In our research, we assumed that there are non-verbal gestalts for many complex phenomena. People use them in the process of thinking, when solving creative tasks, when choosing a life path, when determining the actions of their existence, but at the same time they are completely unaware of their meaning and consequences for themselves. The role of the visual sphere in the creation of creative thinking is great. According to the representatives of Gestalt psychology, any intellectual, vital, logical and any other task is the formation of a gestalt – a deep inner image [11, 12]. And the solution of a certain task occurs by transforming the gestalt. In practice, such a decision is carried out in three stages, the first stage – indicative activity, chaotic search for a solution, accumulation of information about the environment; the second stage is a pause, when information is collected, all possible options are considered, and a solution is not found, and then the process begins, which at first glance has the appearance of “freezing” of intellectual activity; the third stage is enlightenment.

Thus, during the period of information accumulation, a gestalt is formed, that is, a generalized image of the environment is created, in which all the seen pictures of all attempts to solve the task will be present. During the pause period, the gestalt is transformed so that the solution stands out as a figure from the background. Insight is the first moment of awareness of a solution found through Gestalt transformation (i.e., superconsciously). We believe that the gestalt formed in the process of orientational activity is a HO image. It can be assumed that such images are multi-meaningful and can unfold to the conscious part of the personality in different ways depending on their specific content and can highlight one meaning while others will remain in the shadows.

It should be noted that in our psyche there are many complex images that serve as standards that influence behavior, but are not realized by a person. It is worth paying attention to the following feature of the psyche: each of us

uses only part of the information we perceive when solving immediate tasks, when communicating, etc. If every time a person turned to his/her consciousness, his/her activity would require much more time. However, to understand the information that was formed as a result of the generalization of a HO image is a separate task, and another task, no less difficult, is to convey it to other people.

To become conscious, these images must be connected to a system of words as meanings. Until this happens, many complex generalizations will be stored in the human psyche in the form of the HO images, even when the person does not have the corresponding definitions. In order to understand the HO images in our own psyche, we must connect them with a system of relevant concepts, that is, for some information to become conscious, it must line up in a system of concepts. Only in this way the superconscious will become available to our “I”. But here another problem arises – a zombified person is not able to sufficiently realize the processes of his/her thinking.

Next is motivation. Nothing happens without motivation. It is motivation that ensures the formation of social behavior of a person. Summarizing this, we believe that motivation is the energy that ensures the formation of images of the third, fourth and even higher level from ordinary visual social image information. Images will be generalized, visual information will be superimposed and integrated as long as the person is eager to solve the task. This especially applies to the HO images which are actively formed at the same time, because they are related to cognitive, personal, and ideal tasks, that is, for which there is no natural motivation that comes from vital needs. Motivation can be of a social nature (putin and the zombified russian society say “should”) or personal (a person motivates him/herself based on his/her own semantic attitudes). In any case, the formation and processing of visual information by the superconsciousness will take place as long as the motivation is active.

## CONCLUSIONS

With the beginning of the russian full-scale attack on Ukraine, russian atrocities in Bucha, Mariupol and other cities and villages of the country, many Ukrainian citizens asked about what has happened to the russian society, the state authorities, who set the goal of destroying Ukraine as a state and all its inhabitants as a nation. Then Ukrainians have labelled the invaders and the authorities of Russia as non-humans. And this is a fair name for them. The fact is that these occupiers and their neo-Nazi leaders have a destroyed, distorted consciousness as a result of which they became incapable of realizing their thought processes. The consciousness of such persons gradually degrades towards animal thinking, the so-called proto-thinking. This is one direction to not

realizing one's intentions and actions at the level of both subconscious and partially conscious analysis of primary mental images (images of a first and second orders). The second direction is the role of superconscious processes, in particular mental images of a higher level, which also

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Authors declare no conflict of interest

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