

# Biological Naturalism

John R. Searle

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## – Hypothesis

- *Mental phenomena are **caused by** brain processes and **realized in** brain processes*

# Brain-Consciousness

- Consciousness is biological
- **Stomach-digestion**
- Mitosis, enzyme secretion, etc.
  
- **Biology studies life**

# Theoretical Background

- Atomic theory of Matter
- Evolutionary Biology

# The principle of Neurophysiological Sufficiency

- Causal sufficiency
- Causal interrelationship

# Explication of the Hypothesis

- “Brain not only produces but also sustains the conscious life. The regenerating process in the brain reveals the realization of the mental states in the brain processes.” (1992: 3)

## Implication

- “On these definitions, consciousness is a causally emergent property of the systems. It is an emergent feature of the certain systems of the neurons in the same way solidity and liquidity are emergent features of the system of molecules.” (1992: 5)

# Does Searle advocate Emergentism?

– **No**

- For an emergentist, the mind is conceived, as a whole constituted of various functions of the parts or the subsystems of the brain. Nevertheless, the emergence of the *whole* is *qualitatively* different from its constituted *parts*.



## Kim's notion of Emergence

- “If property  $M$  emerges from properties  $N^1, \dots, N^n$ , then  $M$  supervenes on  $N^1, \dots, N^n$ . That is to say, systems that are alike in respect of basal conditions,  $N^1, \dots, N^n$  must be alike in respect of their emergent properties.” (2006: 550)

## Searle defines emergence

- “Consciousness could cause things that could not be explained by the causal behaviour of the neurons. The naïve idea here is the consciousness gets squirted out by the behaviour of the neurons in the brain, but once it has been squirted out, then has a life of its own. (1192: 112)

# Two levels of Explanation

- Macro level
- **Micro level**

# What is Consciousness?

- **Conscious mental states**
- **Intentionality**
- **Subjectivity**
- **Mental causation**

## **Anti-Cartesian notion of Consciousness**

- **Non-circular**
- **NO to: conscience, self-consciousness,  
and cognition**
- **Hierarchy of consciousness**
- **Dream/ consciousness with lower intensity**

# What is Intentionality?

- **Feature of consciousness/ property of consciousness**
- **Directedness/ aboutness/ of-ness**
- **Belief, Desire, intention, etc.**