

Sensorimotor level; Sensorimotor activity

(Latin – *sensus* – perception, sensation, feeling +motor, something putting in motion)

The lowest level of the **individual's** activity and experience which does not require **awareness**, is not accompanied by any images, is attached to 'here and now'; immediate perception area (correspondingly, it does not need language, thinking or volition). Mutual coordination of sensory – perceptual and muscular – motor functions is most important at this level: Information received from outside or from experiencing one's own needs, internal **sensations** or physiological processes affects bodily movements. At the same time, moving in space becomes the source of new information. The new information changes movements, etc.

Such a direct link is unacceptable for **set theory** (see **Postulate of immediacy**). Mutual coordination of functions is mediated by the individual's **set**. The information received first changes set, which, on its part, affects bodily movements. Feedback is also mediated by set. The actual set formed at the sensorimotor level unites sensory – perceptual and muscular - motoric **components**, the corresponding **dispositions** (**habits, skills**) and **instincts**. Performing actions does not require **awareness** and the behavior is entirely impulsive. For example, infant and animal behavior is performed only on the sensorimotor level and is purely impulsive. However, behavior of the conscious human being is mostly conscious. For example, a tennis player's behavior during playing, a child splashing in the lake or seeing frogs in the water and then jumping out, in horror, onto the beach – all these are sensorimotor behaviors. When performing these behaviors human mind is passive and only reflects the actions in progress. If the action changes as a result of making it conscious then the behavior stops to be sensorimotor. If the tennis player consciously changes tactics during the game, if she/he feels pity for the rival and starts hitting the ball more softly or if the child splashing in the water realizes that it is too late and for this reason gets out of the water, these behaviors will be no longer described as sensorimotor because of being changed as a result of the active intervention of consciousness.