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Author: Liu, H.
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Propositions

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Hao Liu

_The Roots of Intentionality in Aristotle’s Theory of Psychology_

1. The origin of intentionality in terms of immanent content are found in Aristotle’s theory of perception by virtue of his principle of receiving form without matter, the assimilation principle and perceptual awareness. However, there is no hint of intentional directedness in Aristotle’s theory of perception.

2. Perceptual activities such as memory, recollection and dreams reveal intentionality in terms of immanent content by virtue of _phantasia_’s power to present and manipulate the inner image in psychological life.

3. In the sense of receiving the intelligible form and being conscious of what it is thinking, the thinking soul is passive insofar as it suffers an alteration from potentiality to actuality. It is here that Brentano’s intentional in-existence can be related to Aristotle’s discussion of intellect. However, Aristotle does not describe a directedness from the active intellectual soul to its object at this stage, nor an intentional object.

4. Intellect in first actuality is intentional in the sense that it has an active power to select or pay attention to a particular object, which can both exist or not exist. This is a different stage of intellect compared to the intellectual soul’s act of cognition, which is operated by the active intellect and the receptive intellect with the aid of images derived from sense perception.

5. The restriction of the concept of a mental act to activities of the mind has made generations of philosophers unduly insensitive to more holistic accounts of the human being.
6. The pre-modern accounts of intentionality have a contribution to the modern debate concerning supervenience against the background of Cartesian dualism or reductive materialism.

7. A non-reductive intentionality theory has its roots in a non-reductive position of soul.

8. Functionalism defines the mental state as a functional state, and this functional state can be multiply realized in different physical substrates. But a soul’s power can only be applied to a specific kind of body, and not to any physical substrate.

9. Philosophy is only one way to know and reveal reality. Art, literature, mathematics, physics, etc, try in their own ways.

10. Philosophy is not just a major. It is also a way of living.