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Man's face and mimic language

Hjortsjö, Carl-Herman

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Concluding remarks

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The presented analyses have clarified the manner in which the various mimic muscle effects ("the mimic letters") are involved as subcomponents in the different mimic facial expressions ("the mimic words"). The picture material has shown how slight are the changes needed to alter the meanings of "the words". Although the feeling for this has probably existed earlier, the purely anatomical explanations have been largely lacking.

It would, of course, have been inviting to undertake a comparative study also of the various facial expressions. An investigation of this nature is quite feasible, but attempts to do this have shown that the descriptions — if they could actually provide anything other than what can be directly read from the picture material — are so extensive that they need a book to themselves and can under no circumstances be contained within the framework of this short work. The author has therefore chosen another method.

To guide those who wish to become further informed about this, in itself extremely interesting, matter, an Appendix 2 has been added. Here, will be found a table compiled of all the data recorded in connexion with the analyses in the previous chapter. The table contains 31 observed phenomena (called objects in the table) numbered from I (which is "the forehead") to XXXI (which is "possible direction of the gaze"). Under each such object, there are at least two and at the most six various alternatives for a change that has appeared or has failed to appear in connexion with the mimic play of features. Thus, under object VIII (which is "lateral eye furrows") only two alternatives are provided: 1. does not exist; 2. exists. Object II (which is "the eyebrows"), however, has six alternatives: 1. unaffected; - - -; 6. A-eyebrows. The table includes also the group classification of the emotional conditions from A to H, used at the analyses. It has thus been possible to record in the table how each group's three pictures are related to the alternatives mentioned under the various objects. For instance, it can be read from the table that when object IX (which is "the infraorbital triangle") is concerned, the three pictures in Group D are differently related to one another. In picture 1, the triangle is unaffected, in picture 2, it is pressed upwards, and in picture 3, it is also pressed upwards and has

a corner pulled upwards-medially. By studying the table, the reader is able to carry out the desired comparisons between the mimic facial expressions at various emotional conditions.

The data recorded in the table, however, can also be illustrated graphically. This has been done in the two diagrams added to the table. Diagram I includes the Groups A—D; diagram II, the Groups E—H. The left column in the diagram lists the 31 objects. Each Group has a system of squares containing at least two and at the most six squares, corresponding to the minimum two and maximum six alternatives of the various objects. In this system of squares (alternative system) the pictures appertaining to the Groups have been set in such a way that picture 3 is marked with an open circle, picture 2 with a +, and picture 1 with a filled circle. If picture 2 lies in the same square as picture 3, this is indicated with a + inside a circle. If picture 2 or picture 3, or both, lie in the same square as picture 1, the markings of each picture are, of course, blacked out by the filled circle. If, for instance, we consider object XI (which is "the nasolabial furrow") in diagram II, alternative 4 (i.e. square 4) refers to all three pictures in Group G; in Group F, alternative 1 refers to pictures 1 and 2, and alternative 5 refers to picture 3; in Group H, alternative 1 refers to picture 1, alternative 3 to picture 2, and alternative 4 to picture 3.

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With this, the author has completed the report of his investigation and has thereby also carried out a task that has occupied his thoughts, his pen, and his pencil for many years. He is fully conscious that much more remains to be observed, analysed, and evaluated, but hopes that the work now presented will at least arouse interest in the important sphere of functional anatomy and in the fascinating world called mimicry.