

Is Truth the same thing as Fact? What is the difference between Fiction and Lie?

In the post "[Fact Fiction and BS](#)" I've looked at the notion of **Fact**. In this post, I will focus on the notion of **Truth** and its relation to the **Fact**.

You can check the classic definitions of truth, fact, and fiction in dictionaries or lately online dictionaries. I've included some links at the end of the article.

I will try (below) a definition of my own aiming at the core of the concept.

The "Truth" is the mental projection of a Fact

Also, the Truth is the attempt of the human mind to capture and recall a Fact.

Let me present the definition of Fact and Fiction from the "Fact Fiction and BS" article:

Fact: A fact is any piece of information, created by a sensor of any kind measuring one or more parameters, from a well-defined position in space-time and whose content can undoubtedly be authenticated by a quorum of "witnesses" at any moment in time and space, after the measurement, upon request.

Facts are the bricks of what we call "reality".

Fiction: Any information which is not fact is fiction!

Based on the above definitions of Fact and Fiction you can see that the Truth resides somewhere between Fact and Fiction. For a short time, a Truth can "match" perfectly a Fact but will never be a Fact, it is simply our mental image of a Fact.

So, the human mind alone can only produce Fiction or Lies and in certain cases (at random or not) match a Fact.

One important corollary of the above sentence is that any attempt to find "facts" by probing human memory is futile. For example, using a machine such as a classic lie detector may at

best only probe if an individual lies intentionally. If your intention is to get to a fact by using any device to probe the brain's memory content then you are simply leading yourself on a wrong path.

The most accurate dictionary definition I found so far is in “ **The Devil's Dictionary (1881-1906)**” stating “**TRUTH, n. An ingenious compound of desirability and appearance.**”. I'm not sure why the devil seems to be closer to defining a term than the holy. That says a lot about how our psyche works.

So, how and why the brain is such an unreliable machine to produce factual information? Let's explore some of the most important causes of error.

1. Errors in how the information is acquired by the brain via natural sensorial processes
2. Errors induced by the “malleability of the mind” as our memories change continuously for many reasons

Let's explore those error-inducing reasons.

1. The information acquisition errors.

We all know that our visual and auditive acuity is different from person to person as well as at different moments of one's life. Our “reality” is constructed by our brain exclusively out of sensorial information. If the information produced by our natural sensors differs from person to person and even for the same person in time, then how can we think we can produce factual information out of it? Additionally, sensorial errors induced by external conditions further undermine the accuracy of the raw basic information our brains use to construct our reality.

An excellent case study, put in a movie is (obviously) The Matrix scene where Morpheus explains to Neo what Matrix is. Interestingly enough our reality may be an even more complex and convoluted case of The Matrix where each individual tends to live in their own

Matrix and our reality is only an overlap of many individual Matrix-like realities.

2. Memory storage inaccuracies.

The fact that the information in a human mind matches a Fact does not necessarily makes it a Fact. To be a Fact the information must be able to be verified by other entities (minds or machines) and we have no way, yet, to precisely extract mind states and test them against other minds or machines. The problem is, even if we can probe and examine a mental state, the mental state will change almost immediately (that is how minds work) hence rendering the mind state non-factual. Yet for the mind, there will be no way to sense that without an external reference. So, the Truth (the representation of a fact) will drift away from the Fact. This is a complex relationship and if we are not aware of it we can end up confusing Truths and Facts with disastrous consequences for us and the society.

My definition of the Truth is based on analyzing how the human mind works. To perceive anything, our mind needs to rely on memory. Simply put there is no way for the human mind to make the distinction between any entities outside of the mind itself without prior information about the external world. To use this prior information the mind needs to store it in the physical support, the neurons in the brain.

An interesting book explaining how our memory works and how reliable is (or not) [The Memory Illusion](#) by the researcher [Dr. Julia Shaw](#). The book cites many research projects including her own trying to understand how reliable the human memory is, including how the memory can be manipulated. YES! your memory can be manipulated by what you hear in ways you can barely believe. Many other researchers such as [Elizabeth Loftus](#) have studied how human memory works and provided sufficient proof for us to understand our own weaknesses and our inability to gather and use factual information by only using our own natural bodies.

So, we are bad at probing our reality with our natural sensors and we easily mess up what we acquired by mixing it with fictional constructs of our own information induced by other

minds and yes we do forget things.

Knowing all this, how anyone can hope to get to and be able to work with Facts? Luckily for us, we invented ways to precisely sense and measure reality and also accurately store and recall information. Our digital computers, if used correctly, have the potential to do exactly that.

My solution to these limitations of the human mind is to pair human beings with digital machines in a fully symbiotic way in order to use the machine as a scaffolding for the mind. This new living entity will be able to accurately acquire and use factual information as well as unleash human creativity in the realm of fiction.

I'm coining a new concept called "Self Reliance" for Self Reliant Individuals as the base unit for a society of the future. **Self Reliant is NOT equal or equivalent to Selfish, but exactly the opposite.** A society made up of self-reliant living entities has the best shot to endure until the end of time and enjoy life together with all humanity. "Live and let live" kind of society. This society is also built on shared facts and will lead to a microbalance of abilities. However this is not a given, we have to fight for this type of society. Unfortunately, our current society seems to head directly towards auto-destruction instead. Yet there is hope....

Obviously, this is what I believe and I'm presenting here the base on that belief. I'm happy to get any feedback that may lead to a better understanding of this essential issue deeply affecting the lives of all of us. I also believe that most of the atrocities humans committed against other living things including other humans during our short history under the sun are rooted in this confusion between the Truth and Fact.

I have intentionally not analyzed the concept of Lie in this article. A lie is an intentional distortion of truth by a human mind when communicating with other human minds. This is all for now on the subject of lies. If time permits I'll come back to this subject in a different article.

Added on Oct 28, 2018: If you are still skeptical about how easy is those days to change digital information without the ability to detect the change just take a look at the excellent abilities of the InPixio suite of editors (<https://www.inpixio.com>). Those tools are exquisite and have a lot of use in creating fictional constructs by mixing and altering real data. The edited info is good and can add value as much time as we can detect that it is fiction. Without detection, it is just beautiful BS... Below is a small example of what inpixio erase can do. The following images are before and after the removal of an object from the image:



and, after removal...



End add Oct 28, 2018

- Links to other people's opinions in this matter

Dr. Julia Shaw on human memory imperfections

Elizabeth Loftus: Powerful case of human memory issues

Anil Seth: Excellent talk about the mind and reality

Blowing your mind, we live in “A Matrix” like reality, Nick Mercer:

The heads in the sand: Next, how and why we run towards our own demise... (gullibility and ignorance) Forget for a while this is a commercial, just turn off the sound and see the brilliant way it points out a human weakness of all of us (more or less but always there).

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