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Discussion of Stalking Behavior Using a Conscious System

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Abstract

Stalking behavior, characterized by specific and dreadful acts such as persistent following, repeated sending of unwanted gifts, lack of sympathy, and even willingness to kill the victim, has become a serious concern in modern society. However, since stalking behavior has something partly in common with any criminal behavior, further discussion of this topic is considered helpful in determining factors behind various criminal behavior. Thus, there is an urgent need to investigate how this mysterious and dangerous behavior arises. There are three main types of stalking behavior: “rejected,” “resentful,” and “other (intimacy seeker and incompetent suitor).” First, we focused on a conscious model of the rejected type, as it is considered the most typical. The artificial conscious model is built to represent a process in which a conflict of concepts arising in the Reason Subsystem is progressively reconciled by the Association Subsystem.

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1 Introduction

Modern artificial intelligence is a system that generates simple responses that are convenient for users. When robots have a mind similar to that of humans, there will be pleasant communications, including emotional ones, between robots and humans, but like humans, there is a possibility that such robots may commit a crime. Therefore, we need to create an environment that prevents robots from committing crimes as artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated. But why do people engage in criminal behavior? In this study we firstly describe stalking behavior, which has much in common with many other crimes, and then clarify the mechanism of consciousness.

In the following chapters, we examine what stalking behavior is, and based on the findings, deepen our understanding of the stalker’s consciousness. Then, we investigate actual stalking cases in detail and describe the stalker’s thought processes by mapping them to a conscious system using consciousness modules (MoNADs).

2 What is Stalking Behavior?

Before discussing the conscious system of stalkers, we need to clarify what stalking behavior is. Stalking no longer refers to just following someone; the spread of Internet communication such as SNS has made information more accessible, and stalking behavior has also diversified. Although there are various definitions in the literature, in this paper we follow the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)” (American Psychiatric Association. 1994) issued by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) to meet our objective of constructing the conscious system of stalkers.

Based on the APA’s DSM, stalking is characterized by a constellation of behaviors that

1. are directed repeatedly towards a specific individual (the target),
2. are experienced by the target as unwelcome and intrusive, and
3. are reported to trigger fear or concern in the target (APA. 1994).

2.1 Types of Stalkers

Although stalking is characterized by various behaviors as described above, there are also various types of stalkers who engage in such behaviors. Paul E. Mullen et al. proposed three categories of stalkers – the “rejected,” the “resentful,” and “others” – on the basis of the stalker’s motivation, the context of emergence, the relationship with the victim, and the history of mental disorder.

2.1.1 Rejected stalkers

The characteristics of rejected stalkers are:

1. Pursuing an ex-intimate (husband, wife, lover, etc.).
2. Aiming at either reconciliation, or exacting revenge for rejection, or a fluctuating mixture of both.
3. Maintaining, by stalking, a relationship to the target, although indifferent to his or her suffering and damage (Mullen, Pathe and Purcell, 2008).

Compared with other types of stalkers, rejected stalkers engage in a wide variety of stalking behavior, such as phone calls, letters and loitering, and the duration of stalking is the longest. Though caught up in the pursuit of their ex-partners, when confronted with criminal penalties for continuing their pursuit, many are able to stop. This indicates that rejected stalkers have difficulty in calculating their own advantage and the suffering of the victim. Examples include a woman who was unable to accept her husband’s decision to end their marriage and made unwanted visits to her husband at his workplace and his flat. Another case is a man who made repeated approaches to his estranged wife at her parents’ home pleading for a reconciliation and snooped around in the house, and kept sending her gifts (Mullen, Pathe and Purcell, 2008).

2.2.2 Resentful stalkers

The characteristics of resentful stalkers include:

1. Stalking is intended to cause fear and apprehension in the target.
2. Stalking emerges out of a desire for retribution against an individual, whom the stalker believes has personally, or as a member of some group or organization, harmed them.
3. Resentful stalkers usually gain a satisfying sense of power and control from their harassment of the target.
4. Resentful stalkers almost invariably feel justified in their actions and present themselves as victims fighting back against overwhelming odds (Mullen, Pathe and Purcell, 2008).

Resentful stalkers are more likely to commit threatening behavior than other types of stalkers, but less likely to resort to actual violence. When confronted with legal penalties, this type of stalker is often persuaded to refrain from further stalking, indicating that they are able to calculate their own advantage. Examples include a man who made repeated phone calls and sent veiled death

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