

Book Review **The Mind Body Problem**

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The mind-body problem clarifies different key concepts and issues about the mind and the body interaction and contains different theories about the mind-body problem. Jonathan Westphal proposes his approach to mind-body problem in this book and gives detail information about this problem. He expresses his approach that is narrower than the other propositions about the mind-body problem. He answers the question of the interaction between mind and body. He believes that his approach (neutral monism) can help us to solve the mind-body problem. The book consists of seven chapters. In chapter one, *The Mind-Body Problem: Background and History*, the author introduces mind-body problem and discusses four propositions for easily understanding of the mind-body problem and he shows how the terms “mind”, “body”, “physical”, and “nonphysical” are related to these four propositions.

In chapter two, *Dualist Theories of Mind and Body*, the author considers different forms of dualism that is the antinaturalist, Such as substance dualism (the view that mind and body can exist independently of each other), the property dualist, parallelism, and epiphenomenalism (it is the view that mental events and the mind are epiphenomena). According to this view mind is not physical substance.

The third chapter, *Physicalist Theories of Mind*, the author identifies different versions of materialism or physicalism that everything exists is something physical and so the mind is physical and different possibilities that the mind is physical thing such as behaviorism (the mind is behavior) and different versions of it. Writer also discusses arguments against behaviorism such as Identity theory (the theory that mind and brain are identical and mind is nonphysical), Functionalism, and Anomalous monism.

In chapter four, *Antimaterialism about the Mind*, the author explains about three arguments about antimaterialist that was appeared in the philosophy of mind. These three arguments agree that physicalism is not true. Idealism that is antiphysicalism, believes that everything is mental. He talks about Nagel's argument, Zombie argument, and Jackson's argument that is Epiphenomenal Qualia and these arguments have allocated the deficiency materialist and naturalistic principle of the immensity of scientists today.

In chapter five, *Science and the Mind-Body problem: Consciousness*, the author proposes some scientific solutions to the mind-body problem and considers some scientific study of mind that was related to one part of the mind: consciousness that is the study of which has become important in the cognitive science and it can regarded as a part of the mind. He also describes four scientific theories, the global workspace theory, the hypotheses of Crick and Koch, Tononi's account of integrated information, and Graziano's attention schema. qualia or phenomenal properties that we

experience them. Then he introduces neutral monism that is the view that mind and matter are composed of basic neutral elements. Finally he formulates the solution to the mind-body problem by neutral monism. He believes that mind-body problem is paradox. It is a group of propositions we have sound arguments, the propositions are changeable and we cannot confirm all of them in the group.

It is difficult not to like the author with his modest style. There are some weakness in the book. The structure is a little unvanished. At the beginning of reading, the readers think that he wants to find a solution to the mind-body problem after explaining about his experience. But after the time, readers can understand Westphal explains the interaction of mind-body problem and introduces his new approach about it.