STEREOTYPES, PREJUDICES AND DISCRIMINATIONS

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STEREOTYPE
Idea
«People with yellow eyes are mean»

PREJUDICE
Feeling
«I don’t like people with yellow eyes»

DISCRIMINATION
Action
«I’m not going to let anyone with yellow eyes sit next to me at lunch»
WHAT IS A STEREOTYPE?
STEREOTYPE

The idea or the presumption that all members of a specific group (i.e.: same «race», same religion, same sex) are similar, without individual differences

Greek origin of the term -> "stereos" (solid, rigid) e "typos" (imprinting, image)
“Stereotypes are oversimplified generalizations about groups of people. Stereotypes can be based on race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation—almost any characteristic. They may be positive (usually about one’s own group, such as when women suggest they are less likely to complain about physical pain) but are often negative (usually toward other groups, such as when members of a dominant racial group suggest that a subordinate racial group is stupid or lazy). In either case, the stereotype is a generalization that doesn’t take individual differences into account”.

Where do stereotypes come from?

“New stereotypes are rarely created; rather, they are recycled from subordinate groups that have assimilated into society and are reused to describe newly subordinate groups. For example, many stereotypes that are currently used to characterize black people were used earlier in American history to characterize Irish and Eastern European immigrants”.

WHAT IS A PREJUDICE?
A pre-constituted opinion, a hasty or reckless opinion, without rational justification or issued regardless of a precise knowledge of the object, and such as to prevent correct assessments.

Any prejudicial opinion tends therefore to remain, as well as generic, not very modifiable: in practice, by the very fact of looking at an aspect of reality classified as negative, the subject refuses to deepen his knowledge.

A THUGTH BECOMES PREJUDICE WHEN IT BECOMES IRREVERSIBLE

even when faced with different evidences that contradict it.

POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE
Prejudice

“Prejudice refers to the beliefs, thoughts, feelings, and attitudes someone holds about a group. A prejudice is not based on experience; instead, it is a prejudgment, originating outside actual experience. A 1970 documentary called Eye of the Storm illustrates the way in which prejudice develops, by showing how defining one category of people as superior (children with blue eyes) results in prejudice against people who are not part of the favored category”.

HOW CAN WE DEFINE DISCRIMINATION?
DISCRIMINATION

An unequal treatment applied to an individual or group of individuals by virtue of their belonging to a particular category

Two main characteristics:

1) PARTICULAR TREATMENT, different from other individuals or groups of individuals

2) ABSENCE OF JUSTIFICATION for this different treatment
*Via https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-29446232*
FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION:

- **Racial discrimination**: treat someone differently and unjustly because of their race, skin color, nationality, national or ethnic origin

- **Ageism / age discrimination**: treat someone differently and unjustly because of the age

- **Gender discrimination**: treat someone differently and unjustly because of their gender. Both women and men, and transsexuals can experience gender discrimination

- **Discrimination for sexual orientation**: treat someone differently and unjustly because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transsexual or because people thinks they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transsexual

- **Discrimination due to disability**: treat someone differently because they have a physical, mental or intellectual disability

- **Religious Discrimination**: treat someone differently because they profess a different religion, or have different beliefs or profess no religion.
HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE ON DISCRIMINATION

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (1948) → non binding!

Article 1.
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2.
Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIC AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (1966) → binding!

Article 26
All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.