

Ontological Mistakes—Confusion About the Nature of Being

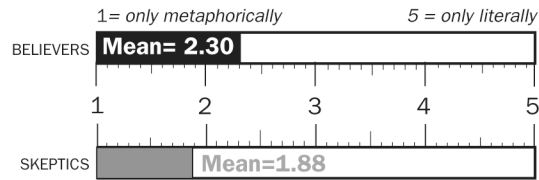


Figure 1—Material Objects Are Seen as Having Mental Abilities

In sixteen statements, material entities such as artifacts, liquids, solids, or plants held mental attributes such as beliefs, desires, or kindness. For example: “A mother’s mind can exist in breast milk” and “There is a lot of will-power in a large mountain.” These items measured the degree to which participants *mentalized matter*.

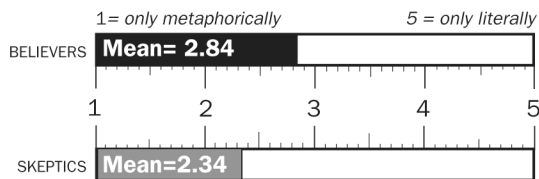


Figure 2—Mental Phenomena Are Seen as Having Physical Attributes

In ten statements mental phenomena such as a thought or a human mind were described as having attributes of physical matter such as volume, or the ability to affect a material entity as if it were touched. For example: “A thought can transfer from one physical place to another” and “A thought can exist or live without a physical body.”

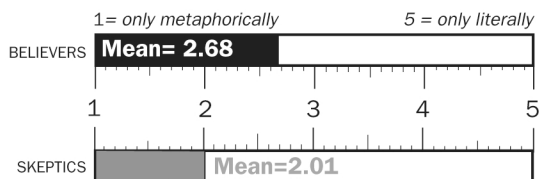


Figure 3—Mental Phenomena Are Seen as Having Biological Attributes

Six statements described mental phenomena such as a thought or a human mind as having the attributes of biological entities. For example: “An evil thought may literally contaminate an entity.”

For comparison, there were also eight fully *metaphorical statements*, (e.g., “A wailing wind is a flute”) and four fully *literal statements* (e.g., “Running water is fluid”).