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**TITLE**  
**MULLER LYER ILLUSION TEST**

**AIM**  
To demonstrate how illusion occurs in ones perception by using Muller  
Lyer Illusion Test

SUBJECT - MK  
EXPERIMENTER - KSN  
DATE -  
TIME -  
PLACE -

### **INTRODUCTION**

Muller Lyer Illusion is a demonstration of an error in perception. In fact, illusion could be described as an erroneous perception or a mistaken perception or wrongs in perception. When illusion occurs the object is very much present in the environment, the way it is perceived is wrong. In other words, when illusion happens, there is a contradiction between the object in reality and the way it is being comprehended. Therefore, psychologists are of the opinion that when illusion takes place there is a dichotomy between the physical properties of the object in reality and the way it is being comprehended in the context of the perceptual field. The standard example for illusion is mistaking the rope for a snake.

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Experimental psychologists have systematically studied how illusion could be caused through geometrical figures. Muller Lyer Illusion is a clearcut example of how does arrow heads and featherheads causes intensity and extensity of illusion in observers.

Psychologists through their research work have investigation upon factors influencing the extent of illusion. According to them, factors could be broadly classified into subjective and objective. Subjective factors like age, gender, status, motive patterns, mental set, satisfaction and deprivation influences upon illusion. Objective factors like perceptual field and the way it is structured, educational qualification, parental training, cultural influences, social economic standards influences illusion.

Psychologists are very keen on distinguishing illusion from hallucination. According to them, for illusion to occur the presence of the object in reality is a must. Whereas in hallucination experience illusion some time or other whereas hallucination is very much restricted to psychological disorder.

Illusion could be experimentally caused, the severity could be altered by varying the IV. whereas hallucination could not be experimentally caused, in fact it is very much restricted to the psychotic world.

**Table 1 showing the statistical computations for the results obtained in Muller Lyer Illusion Test**

NAMES	MPSE SCORES		CE SCORES		MEAN CE	ME
	Ascن	Desc	Ascن	Desc		
<b>MK</b>	9.6	10.8	-6.4	-5.2	-5.8	-.06

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Muller Lyer Illusion as an experiment has appealing applicative values. With the theme of this experiment any person with a profound knowledge of psychology could think in terms of how well people's perception could be influenced keeping commercial values in mind.

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED**

Muller Lyer Illusion Board  
Wooden Screen  
Writing Materials

### **PLAN**

To conduct the experiment in 2 series - ascending and descending and to administer the trials of both the series alternatively.

### **VARIABLES**

**INDEPENDENT VARIABLES:**

Muller Lyer Illusion Board  
Instructions delivered

**DEPENDENT VARIABLES:**

The extent of illusion experienced performance of the subject.

### **HYPOTHESIS**

Subject would experience a higher amount of illusion in ascending order over descending order of presentation.

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### **PROCEDURE**

Subject is seated comfortably before the table. The Muller Lyer Board is arranged on the table with other necessary materials. Subject is told to help herself to set the height of the illusion board to her eyeball level. Once the height of the board is adjusted to the convenience of the subject was asked to move the slide over the variable line till it expanded by making it equal to the length of the standard line subject is further told that there are two directions to be maintained by running the trials in ascending and descending order.

In ascending order the shortened variable line is gradually increased by the subject herself till it is made equal to the length of standard line to such trials are given.

In descending order of presentation, subject was told to decrease the length of the variable line [deliberately being expanded] till it becomes equal to the length of standard line 10 such trials are administered.

Trials are administered in an alternative manner thereby one of the ascending trials followed by one of the descending trial in order to eliminate the effect of practice.

A trial comprising of subject arriving at a proper length of variable line claiming it to be equal with the length of standard line.

After every trial, readings are taken by the experimenter by consulting the scale fixed to the backside of illusion board.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is a Muller Lyer Illusion Board. The line left to you with arrowheads is called the standard line. The line which is extended from there enclosed with featherhead is a variable line. Sometimes I will keep the variable line short and sometime I will keep it enlarged. Your task is to expand the shortened variable line till it becomes equal with the standard line its length. In other sequence you have to decrease the length of the variable line till it becomes equal to the length of the standard line.

Sufficient number of trials are there which you have to complete in the

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order in which it is presented to you. Only after you say that you are done with the task I take the readings. Before you give a final call, you are at the liberty to make necessary adjustments with the length of variable line with reference to the trials being executed by you.

**PRECAUTIONS**

1. Instructions delivered must be effective.
2. Trials has to be one of ascending and one of descending in succession.
3. It is the task of the subject to either increase or decrease the variable line as the task involved.
4. Readings should be taken only at the end of the trial and to be recorded trial-wise.
5. When readings are taken the scale is always referred from left to right.

**ANALYSIS OF DATA**

1. Muller Lyer Illusion equipment is conducted in 2 scruis, ascending and descending of 10 trials each.
2. Readings of ascending and descending are separately noted down in the table format.
3. Each of the reading of ascending and descending are to be trusted as PSE's [point of subjective equality] since that it is the point at which subject equates the variable line with the standard line. Therefore there are 10 PSE's in ascending and 10 PSE's in descending scuisse.
4. MPSE is computed by dividing the total of PSE's by 10 [on an average i.e., the point at which subject has perceived the variable line as equal to the standard line it its length with references to ascending and descending presentation as a whole.
5. ME is computed by applying the formula -

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ME = (Mean of descending - Mean of ascending scores) / 2

6. Scores are entered into individual and group tables data is compiled and tabulated which enabled further discussion to be had.

### **DISCUSSION**

The aim of the experiment is to study the extent of illusion caused in the subject over M L Board.

The hypothesis of the experiment has been that the extent of illusion would be more in ascending series over descending series.

Illusion is a mistaken perception and illusion could be demonstrated through geometrical figures. In M. L. Illusion experiment due to the intrusion of arrowheads and featherheads, illusions are caused. 16 cms standard line is under estimated due to the effect of arrowheads which are enclosed to the standard line. The shorter variable line is over estimated due to the intrusion of featherheads. Eyeball Movement Theory convincingly explained how illusions are caused. According to this theory, eyeballs does not reach the terminal ends of standard line and contrary to this eyeballs get expanded to reach upto the end points of featherhead. Hence illusion occurs.

### **INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION**

Table 1 showing the source obtained by the subject in relation to the extent of illusion occurred in the test.