QUANTIFICATION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Ramgopal Uppaluri
Department of Chemical Engineering,
IIT Guwahati, Guwahati 781039

Abstract

This article attempts to gain conceptual insights in scientific instrumentation to visualize whether consciousness can be quantified. After a brief introduction on consciousness and its associated problems, the article elaborates upon the basic principles adopted in scientific measurement. Subsequently, the discussion is dovetailed towards quantum measurement and associated difficulties in quantification. Eventually, the article discusses upon the relevance of various philosophical implications propounded by consciousness researchers and philosophers that explicitly rule out the ability to quantify consciousness even qualitatively. Thereby, relevant Vedantic postulates in conjunction with modern science have been thoroughly analyzed to develop a mature understanding towards consciousness fundamentally, existentially and purposefully. Finally, an analogical treatment based on scientific instrumentation is outlined that advocates for the need to identify the essential principle of interaction of consciousness with matter and its representations. For this purpose, magnetic resonance imaging and femto-second spectroscopy have been elaborated. Finally, it is concluded that the Vedantic postulates that elaborate upon the characteristic attributes of consciousness are in good agreement with those presented by modern scientific philosophers and scientists and therefore, quantification of consciousness is only possible experientally but not experimentally.