Précis of The Modularity of Mind

1. Background Information
2. Traditional Views on Perception and Cognition
3. Author's view on Perception and Cognition – Perception as a module
Classes of Computational Processes
- Reflex
- Perception
- Cognition

Background Information
Traditional Views on Reflex, Perception and Cognition

- **Behaviorism**
  - Perceptual processes are simply conditioned reflexes.

- **Cognitivism**
  - Perceptual processes involves *thinking*.
  - "Poverty of Stimulus Argument"

- **Author's point of view**
  - Perceptual processes is different from reflex, but is also different from cognition.
The Psychological Module

- Perception is a psychological module
  - A psychological module is "an informationally encapsulated computational system" – it is blocked from some information.
  - Mueller Lyer illusion
  - Franz Gall (1758 – 1828)
Perception and Cognition

- Perception (Modular)
  - Fast, mandatory
  - Keeps track of the current state of the surroundings.
  - Arranged as domain-specific modules.

- Cognition (Non-modular)
  - Slow, under executive control.
  - Needed to deduce information from the results of individual perceptual processes.