

**AUTOMATIC VS. CONTROLLED, PREATTENTIONAL VS.
POSTATTENTIONAL PROCESSING; TERMINOLOGICAL
REDUNDANCE OR DIFFERENT REALITIES?**

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Abstract

Very frequent in psychological literature, terms as automatic, unconscious and preattentive are used as synonymous. But do these different words have the same meaning? Than why do we use all of them? Or are they different realities? The rows below are a synthetic article that intends to clarify this point by analyzing different perspectives on automaticity. In response, we concluded that the superposition between the mentioned concepts is only partial, depending on the particular type of task in use. Finally, qualitative and quantitative differences between automatic versus controlled processing are argued.

Keywords: *automatic, unconscious, controlled, preattentive, postattentive*

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