



➔ **Book Review – NS**

"Why Greatness Cannot Be Planned: The Myth of the Objective" (K. O. Stanley, & J. Lehman)

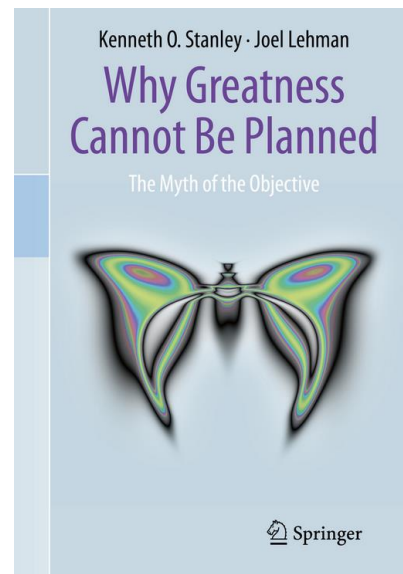
Utku Kose

Usak University,

Computer Sciences App. & Res. Center, Turkey

utku.kose@usak.edu.tr

It's clear that Artificial Intelligence has a great popularity nowadays. Furthermore, it seems that this scientific field is one the most important fields, which is based on the mission of creating the autonomous world and so the future. So, there are many research studies in the associated fields and many individuals are taking place in the interest scope of this field day by day. Although, majority of such studies seems to be applied, there are also remarkable efforts of ensuring a philosophical sphere that is capable of answering all questions asked to understand more about the role of Artificial Intelligence in the human life. It is important that, such discussions are generally key factors on improving the background of Artificial Intelligence and its related scientific fields (i.e. Computer Science) and enabling us to consider more research opportunities and eventually achieving discoveries to improve the scientific literature.



Here, a book written by Profs. Stanley and Lehman opens our minds to a remarkable discussion in this manner. Titled as "Why Greatness Cannot Be Planned: The Myth of the Objective", Stanley and Lehman's book asked many questions on missing details and making it slower to reach to the greatest because of following the 'myth of objective'. In this context, the authors argue that the humankind focuses more on the myth of objective, which can be measurable, so the role of heuristics and subjectivity is often missed. In the book, it is discussed that we should use the freedom of searching without trapping into misleading signs that are lowering our abilities on seeing the scope of the way towards solutions. Stanley and Lehman use the concept of 'stepping stones' here to describe what they try to figure out and in this context, they define the stepping stones as the approach of everything great is associated with using effective possibilities to build them. So, they argue that if we want to achieve something good, it is not an effective way to consider objectives rather than using some interesting and heuristics ways because objectives are not clear to see future ways totally towards the desired solution.

Based on the main idea indicated above, the book consists of a total of 11 chapters, which can be explained briefly as follows:

Chapter 1 is briefly the starting point of the book as focusing on the misleading addiction to the objectives and explains why it is not always a good way to use objectives in reaching to success or solutions in our life. The authors explain that we may miss some true solution steps while



considering how to achieve the output(s) required by that objectives. Eventually, they discuss briefly how a life could be better without thinking about the objectives.

After making the introduction, Chapter 2 provides some remarkable examples from the real world and shows some people, who has eliminated the objectives from their life on reaching to success. This chapter is a remarkable text after a great entrance to the book because it takes readers' interest to real stories on not using original objectives to reach desired results.

Chapter 3 explains the story behind the book. In this context, experiences on an interactive evolutionary searching system: Picbreeder are expressed to show how eliminating exact objectives can lead us to reach something new and interesting. In detail, using evolutionary ways and eliminating crisp objectives has inspired the authors to figure out the mission of the book.

Chapter 4 is based on the search for finding some answers to the question: "Why does the world work in such an unexpected way?", which means how we can explain this mechanism of eliminating objectives to obtain innovations and discoveries. Briefly, this question is tried to be caught on the aspects: "scientific experiments, natural evolution, and technological innovation".

Chapter 5 introduces the concept of "novelty search paradigm", which is evolutionary robotics and used for making the search space more complex from a simpler one.

Chapter 6, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8 take the expressed ideas under previous chapters to steps ahead and discuss how freedom, diversity, and solution ways like the ones in Picbreeder and novelty search can be better for engineering, education, design, and social policies.

After providing final discussions under Chapter 9, for previously mentioned ideas – approaches, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 provides two different cases to use non-objective based, free thinking to reconsider research in Natural Evolution and Artificial Intelligence.

REFERENCES

Stanley, K. O., & Lehman, J. (2015). Why Greatness Cannot Be Planned: The Myth of the Objective. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing AG Switzerland.

Details regarding to the book:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Type | : Authored Book |
| Authors | : Stanley, K. O., & Lehman, J. |
| Language | : English |
| Total Pages | : 141 |
| Edition | : 1 st |
| ISBN | : 978-3319155234 |
| Publishing Location | : Switzerland |
| Published in | : 2015 |
| Publisher | : Springer International Publishing AG Switzerland |

