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History of Psychology

Professor Flavin

#### Essay 4

Titchener's concept of structuralism has played a significant role in the realm of psychology and has made great contributions to it as well. Structuralism was Titchener's original concept. His focus through structuralism was that he focused primarily on the individual mental contents and their individual mechanical connections. His focus was on each of the components rather than the whole, hence the "structural" in "structuralism". Titchener's psychological perspective was that the root objective of psychology was to search for the nature of individual conscious experiences and then analyze consciousness into its component parts in order to figure out the structure. This contributed to psychology through how it actually had many criticisms and controversy. It also provided the concept of the conscious experience, which was studied mostly through self observation. A contribution that structuralism provided was that it was truly a target of criticism and controversy. Structuralism helped researchers dive deeper into their research which provided newer schools of thought and ways of thinking. Overall, it helps accelerate psychology's progress. Criticisms of structuralism were that it was an older, traditional, outdated school of thought. Many people were progressing in their perspectives on psychology and Titchener stayed stagnant. His style of psychology was viewed as Titchener attempting to hold on to traditional views and perspectives that were outdated.