What contribution has Titchener's Structuralism made to Psychology and what criticisms have been made of his work?

Edward Titchener was the founder of Structuralism. This proposes that 'the structure of conscious experiences could be understood by analyzing the basic elements of thoughts and sensations.' He concluded that there were three kinds of mental components that could be considered to constitute conscious experience. These were: sensations, images and affections.

Titchener found that if someone placed an apple on the table you would know what it is, if someone placed an apple in your hand with your eyes closed you would know what it is or if someone sliced an apple open and put the slice under your nose you would know what it is. This shows that all thoughts can be broken down into basic elements, specifically sensations through the Psychology of Structuralism. Much of his work focused on sensations, and he concluded that there are over 40,000 sensations that consist of thought, primarily related to vision and hearing.

However, critics of Titchener argue that Structuralism was too concerned with internal behavior which is not directly observable. It has also been criticized for being ahistorical and for favoring deterministic structural forces over the ability of people to act.