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### **Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)**

#### **What made him the founder of psychology?**

Wilhelm Wundt was the founder of psychology because he founded a school of thought. He established psychology as a formal academic principle. In addition, he was the first to set up a laboratory, edited the first journal and began experimental psychology as a science.

#### **What goal did he announce in his book *Principles of Physiological Psychology*?**

Wundt's goal was to purposely establish a new science. He wrote, "the work I here present to the public is an attempt to mark out the new domain of science." His goal was to promote psychology as an independent science.

#### **Gedankenmesser**

This was an instrument to measure the mental process of perceiving the two stimuli. It means thought meter or mind gauge.

#### **What two important things happened during the Leipzig years?**

He established a laboratory at Leipzig and the journal philosophical studies. It was the official publication of the new laboratory and new science. Wundt and the psychological laboratory were known worldwide as a modern and outstanding scientific institution that provided excellent introduction to the new experimental psychology.

#### **What two parts did psychology get divided into?**

Experimental psychology and social psychology

#### **What did Wundt believe that psychology should be the study of?**

Wundt believed that the simpler mental functions such as sensation and the perception must be studied through laboratory methods.

#### **Voluntarism**

The idea that mind has the capacity to organize mental contents into higher level thought processes.

#### **Mediate and immediate experience**

Mediate experience provides information about something other than the elements of that experience.

Immediate experience is unbiased by interpretation.

#### **Introspection according to Wundt**

The examination of one's own mental state.

### **Wundt's three goals of psychology**

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1. Analyze conscious processes into their basic elements.
2. Discover how these elements are synthesized or organized.
3. Determine the laws of connection governing the organization of the elements.

### **Two elements of psychology**

1. Sensations are aroused whenever a sense organ is stimulated, and the resulting impulses reach the brain. It can be classified by intensity, duration, and sense modality.
2. Feelings are the subjective complements of sensations but do not arise directly from a sense organ.

### **Doctrine of apperception – the law of psychic resultants**

The process of organizing mental elements into a whole is a creative synthesis (also known as the law of psychic resultants), which creates new properties from the building up or combining of the elements.

### **Wundt's legacy**

Wundt was a pioneer to establish a school of thought. He was the first to establish a research laboratory that he exclusively designed. He began a new domain in science. He established the beginning of modern experimental psychology, publishing his own journals. Some of his students established laboratories to continue experimenting using the techniques that Wundt developed. American Psychologists returned to the United States and made Wundtian psychology something uniquely American.

### **Hermann Ebbinghaus (1850-1909)**

The first to investigate learning and memory experimentally.

### **What did Ebbinghaus learn about nonsense syllables?**

To Ebbinghaus it was not the individual syllables that were designed to be meaningless (although many were) but rather that the entire list of stimulus words would be meaningless, deliberately constructed to be free of prior connections or associations. In addition, nonsense syllables were used to determine the speed of memorization and forgetting.

### **Forgetting curve**

Shows material is forgotten rapidly in the first few hours after learning and more slowly thereafter.

### **Sentence completion exercise (still used in psychology today)**

Today I am in a \_\_\_\_\_ mood.

**Contrast with Wundt**

He opposed Wundt's fundamental idea that psychology should be the study of the content of conscious experience.

**What did Brentano argue should be the proper subject matter of psychology?**

He argued that the proper subject matter for psychology is mental activity, such as the mental action of seeing rather than the mental content of what a person sees.

**In what two ways did Brentano believe you could study mental acts?**

1. Through memory (recalling the mental processes involved in a particular mental state.)
2. Through imagination (imagining a mental state and observing the accompanying mental processes.)

**Carl Stumpf (1848-1936)**

**Stumpf was a major rival of Wundt's – what did he argue should be the primary date of psychology?**

He argued that the primary date of psychology are phenomena.

**What is phenomenology according to Stumpf?**

The kind of introspection Stumpf favored, refers to the examination of unbiased experience, that is, experience just as it occurs. He disagreed with Wundt about the breaking experience down into elements. He believed that to analyze experience by reducing it to mental contents or elements is to make that experience artificial and abstract and no longer natural.

**Oswald Kulpe (1862-1915)**

**How did Kulpe define psychology?**

He defined psychology as the science of the facts of experience that are dependent on the experiencing person.

**What was Kulpe's systematic experimental introspection?**

Kulpe's introspective method that used retrospective reports of subjects' cognitive processes after they had completed an experimental task.

**What did Kulpe mean by imageless thought?**

To represent the idea that meanings in thought do not necessarily involve specific images.

### **Edward Bradford Titchener (1867-1927) and Structuralism**

**Although he claimed to represent Wundt's ideas and theories in America, he did not actually do this - how exactly did he change Wundt's theories?**

He altered or modified Wundt's system of psychology into his own approach calling it structuralism. He focused on mental elements or contents and their mechanical linking through the process of association, and he discarded Wundt's doctrine of apperception.

**What did Titchener view the central task of psychology to be?**

In Titchener's view, psychology's fundamental task was to discover the nature of the elementary conscious experiences, that is, to analyze consciousness into its component parts and thus determine its structure.

**1901-1905: During these years he wrote Experimental Psychology: A manual of Laboratory Practice, why is this noteworthy?**

These manuals stimulated the growth of laboratory work in psychology in the United States and influenced a whole generation of experimental psychologists.

**Titchener's view of women**

One of the rules was not to allow women to attend his meetings, called the Titchener Experimentalists, where they compared research notes. According to Titchener, women were too pure to smoke. After his persecution by Christine Ladd Franklin, he encouraged female psychologists to advance in psychology and opened the doors for female psychologists to graduate programs, while other male psychologists and universities rejected them.

**What did he believe the subject matter of psychology should be?**

He believed the subject matter of psychology is conscious experience as that experience is dependent on the person who is actually experiencing it.

**What was meant by stimulus error?**

It is confusing the mental process under study with the stimulus or object being observed.

**For Titchener what was meant by introspection?**

Is the process by which a person or self-observation relied on observers who were rigorously trained to describe the elements of their conscious state rather than reporting the stimulus by its familiar name.

**Titchener's three essential problems of psychology**

1. Reduce conscious processes to their simplest components.
2. Determine laws by which these elements of consciousness were associated.
3. Connect the elements with their physiological conditions.

### **Titchener's three elementary states of consciousness**

1. Sensations are the basic elements of perception and occurs in the sounds, sights, smells, and other experience evoked by physical objects in our environment.
2. Images are the elements of ideas and they are found in the process that reflects experiences that are not actually present at that moment, such as memory of the past.
3. Affective states, or affections, are the elements of emotion and are found in experiences such as love, hate and sadness.

### **Titchener presented a list of what he believed to be 44,500 elements of sensation – all of which he believed could be categorized according to four characteristics basic to all sensations.**

1. Quality is the characteristic such as hot or red that clearly distinguishes each element from every other element.
2. Intensity refers to a sensation's strength, weakness, loudness, or brightness.
3. Duration is the course of a sensation over time.
4. Clearness refers to the role of attention in conscious experience; experience that is the focus of our attention is clearer than experience toward which our attention is not directed.

### **Criticisms of Structuralism**

The criticisms directed at the method of introspection are more relevant to the kind of observation practiced at Titchener's and Kulpe's laboratories, which dealt with subjective reports of the elements of consciousness, than to Wundt's internal perception method, which dealt with more objective and quantitative responses to external stimuli. Any attempt at Introspection altered the conscious experience being studied because it introduced an observing variable into the content of the conscious experience. Auguste Comte attacked introspection stating the mind is not capable of studying itself. Introspectionists must be meticulously trained, and thereby have a bias built into their observations. Titchener could not give an exact meaning to introspection. Structuralism was accused of artificiality. The whole experience cannot be captured by a combination of elements. Limited concept of the field: Titchener regarded animal psychology and child psychology as not psychology at all. Psychologist James Gibson stated that Titchener's theory was not needed in his generation.

### **Contributions of Structuralism**

Despite criticisms, contributions to structuralism were credited. Their subject matter, conscious experience, was clearly defined. Their research methods, based on observation, experimentation, and measurement, were in the highest traditions of science. Because consciousness can only be perceived by the person having the conscious experience, the most appropriate method for studying that next experience and that subject matter was some form of self-observation. There was more scientific approach to the method of introspection.

**References**

Schulz, Duane P. & Schulz Sydney Ellen. 2015. *History of Modern Psychology 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*. ISBN-13:978-1-111-82932-2. Pps. 63-99.