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Exam #2 (Chapters 4, 5)

Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)

What made him the founder of psychology?

Wilhelm Wundt was the founder of psychology as a formal academic discipline. According to Schulz, he was known to establish the first laboratory, edited the first journal and began experimental psychology as a science. He used the experiment as the basis for a new science- what we know as psychology today.

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

Wundt's goal was to promote psychology as an independent science. Although Fechner originated the idea of psychology, Wundt was considered the founder, because he wanted to set apart psychology as a science and not just a relationship between the mental and material worlds.

What two important things happened during the Leipzig years?

The first important thing that happened was when Wundt became the professor of philosophy at the University of Leipzig. He worked there for 45 years. The second most important thing that happened was in 1881, when he founded the journal *Philosophical Studies* and established the first laboratory. This introduction led many students wanted to work with him, and they went on to become pioneers of psychology.

What two parts did psychology get divided into?

Psychology was divided into experimental and social psychology.

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

Wundt believed that psychology should be the study of consciousness. He believed that consciousness actively organized its own content. In other words, consciousness included many different parts and would be studied by analysis or reduction.

Voluntarism

Voluntarism is the idea that the mind has the capacity to organize mental contents into higher-level thought processes. Wundt believed that although the conscious mind had basic elements, those elements were needed for the mind to organize.

Mediate and immediate experience

Mediate experience provides information/knowledge about something other than the elements of an experience, like an accurate measurement. Immediate experience provides an unbiased/untainted personal interpretation, like the experience of the psychological researcher.

Introspection according to Wundt

Wundt believed that the conscious mind could be scientifically studied using introspection. This “internal perception” was examining one’s own mental state to inspect and report on personal thoughts or feelings. Introspection was conducted under Wundt’s strict rules and conditions:

1. Observers must be able to determine when the process is to introduced.
2. Observers must be in a state of readiness or strained attention.
3. It must be possible to repeat the observation several times.
4. It must be possible to vary the experimental conditions in terms of the controlled manipulation of the stimuli.

Wundt’s three goals of psychology

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
2. Feelings

Doctrine of apperception - the law of psychic resultants

The doctrine of apperception is the process of organizing mental elements into a whole is a creative synthesis, or the law of psychic resultants. According to Wundt, apperception is an active process.

Wundt’s legacy

Wundt's legacy was that he began a new domain of science and his research was conducted in his laboratory. He published the results in his journal, and this in turn led his students to "plant the seeds" of psychology. He led a new revolution to modernize experimental psychology.

Hermann Ebbinghaus (1850-1909)

The first to investigate _____ and _____ experimentally.

Hermann Ebbinghaus was the first to investigate learning and memory experimentally.

What did Ebbinghaus learn about nonsense syllables?

Ebbinghaus invented nonsense syllables, which were syllables presented in meaningless series to study memory processes. He learned that to memorize stanzas in poetry, he would have to read it over about nine times just to memorize one stanza. His study of nonsense syllables needed 80 readings to study 80 syllables. He concluded that meaningless material is about 9 times harder to learn than meaningful material.

Forgetting curve

The forgetting curve is when memorized material is forgotten rapidly in the first few hours and more slowly thereafter. This is known to be the most brilliant single investigation in the history of experimental psychology that Ebbinghaus published.

Sentence completion exercise (still used in psychology today)

Ebbinghaus' sentence completion exercise was a part of an intelligence test. This test is still used in psychology today, to better understand a person's thoughts, fantasies, and emotional conflicts because it allows the person to complete a sentence however, they want. Essentially, it is a "fill-in-the-blank" exercise.

Franz Brentano (1838-1917)

Contrast with Wundt

Franz Brentano was different from Wundt in that he wanted to study psychology using empirical methods, like observation. Wundt's psychology was experimental. However, Brentano did not completely reject the idea of using experimental methods.

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

Brentano argued that the proper subject matter of psychology should be mental activity, like the mental action of seeing and observing rather than the mental content of what a person sees. This act psychology focused on experience as an activity rather than as a structure.

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

Brentano believed that you could study mental acts by the following:

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 data of psychology?

Carl Stumpf argued that phenomenology should be the primary data of psychology. Phenomenology was Stumpf's introspective method that examined experience as it occurred and not try to reduce experience to elementary components.

What is phenomenology according to Stumpf?

Stumpf believed that to analyze experience by reducing it to mental contents or elements is to make that experience artificial and abstract and thus no longer natural.

Oswald Külpe (1862-1915)

How did Külpe define psychology?

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

What was Külpe's systematic experimental introspection?

Külpe's systematic experimental introspection was a method that used retrospective reports of subjects' cognitive processes after they had completed an experimental task. His method emphasized detailed subjective, qualitative reports from subjects about the nature of their thought processes. Instead of making a simple judgement about stimulus intensity, they were asked to describe the complex mental operations they performed during their exposure to the experimental task. The experimenter assumes a more active role in the research process.

What did Kulpe mean by imageless thought?

Imageless thought was Külpe's idea that meaning in thought can occur without any sensory or imaginal component. Meanings in thought do not necessarily involve specific images, a nonsensory aspect of consciousness.

History of Psychology - Chapter 5 Review

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?

Edward Bradford Titchener coined structuralism and focused on mental elements or contents and their mechanical linking through the process of association. He rejected Wundt's doctrine of apperception.

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

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

1901-1905: During these years he wrote _____, why is this noteworthy?

During these years, Titchener wrote *Experimental Psychology: A Manual of Laboratory Practice*. This was noteworthy because they stimulated the growth of laboratory work in the United States and influenced a whole generation of experimental psychologists. His textbooks were widely used and were translated into many different languages.

Titchener's view of women

Titchener had certain rules for the Titchener Experimentalists, a group of psychologists from prestigious universities who met regularly to compare research notes. One of them was that no women were allowed. According to Schulz, these meetings were often full of psychologists smoking cigars and Titchener's reasoning for banning women was that women were considered "too pure" to smoke. Although he banned women from the meetings, he encouraged and supported their advancement in psychology. He accepted them into his graduate studies program at Cornell while other universities excluded them.

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

According to Titchener, the subject matter of psychology is conscious experience as that experience is dependent on the person who is experiencing it.

What was meant by stimulus error?

Stimulus error was meant by confusing the mental process under study with the stimulus or object being observed. Instead of focusing on their own sensations, they use what they already know to describe something.

For Titchener what was meant by introspection?

For Titchener, introspection, 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. He used detailed, qualitative, subjective reports of his subjects' mental activities during the act of introspecting. He was more interested in the parts of the conscious experience, and not as a whole.

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: Basic elements of perception and occur in the sounds, sights, smells, and other experiences evoked by physical objects in our environment
2. Images: Elements of ideas, and they are found in the process that reflects experiences that are not actually present at the moment, such as a memory of a past experience
3. Affective States (Affections): 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 "cold" 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

Titchener was a firm believer in his ideology. However, times were changing. There was an intellectual climate that was shifting, and Titchener was criticized for clinging to his old principles and methods. According to Schulz, "his efforts proved to be only one phase in its history. The era of structuralism collapsed when Titchener died." In other words, he was close-minded.

Contributions of Structuralism

Titchener invented structuralism- which was a method of interpreting and analyzing consciousness and its compartments such as language, literature, and society and determine their structure. Structuralism also was contrasting elements of structure and show how they relate. An example of structuralism would be describing an orange. An orange is sweet, juicy, tangy, round, and bumpy.