

HP4-5review

History of Psychology - Chapter 4 Review

Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)

What made him the founder of psychology?

Wundt is known as the “father of psychology” and the founder of the first psychology laboratory. He became the first person to identify psychology as a separate scientific discipline. He developed systematic experimental approach to studying conscious experience (introspection).

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

To establish psychology as an independent laboratory science with its' own specific issues and methods of experimentation.

Gedankenmesser-

An instrument Wundt used to measure the mental process of perceiving two stimuli.

What two important things happened during the Leipzig years?

Wundt established a laboratory in Leipzig and founded Psychological Studies journal. Wundt's ideas spread worldwide. (Italy, Russia, Japan, the USA)

What two parts did psychology get divided into?

Experimental and social psychology

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

Consciousness that could be studied by the method of analysis and reduction.

Voluntarism

The power of the will to organize the contents of the mind into higher level thought processes.

Mediate and immediate experience

Mediate experience provides information or knowledge about something other than the elements of an experience. Immediate experience, according to Wundt is unbiased and free from personal interpretations.

Introspection according to Wundt

A scientific method that utilizes standardized instructions in a controlled environment.

Introspection was conducted under strict rules and conditions:

- Observers must be able to determine when the process is introduced
- Observers must be in the state of readiness or strained attention
- The observation must be possible to repeat
- Experimental conditions must be possible to vary 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 process of organizing mental elements into a whole is a creative synthesis, which creates new properties from the building up or combining of the elements. Thus can be compared to combinations of chemical elements where the properties of the compounds are not found in the resultants. Apperception is an active and creative process that happens when our mind acts in a creative way to organize the elements into the whole.

Wundt's legacy

Wundt distinguished psychology as a science from philosophy and biology. He was the first person ever to call himself a psychologist. Wundt founded the first formal laboratory for psychological research, published the journal and tried to develop a systematic theory of the nature of the human mind. Even after death Wundt is still considered the most important psychologist of all time.

Hermann Ebbinghaus (1850-1909)

The first to investigate ___ learning_____ and ___ memory_____ experimentally.

What did Ebbinghaus learn about nonsense syllables?

Nonsense syllables, formed of two consonants with a vowel in between, were the material that Ebbinghaus used. Those combinations needed to be uniformly unassociated, completely homogeneous and equally unfamiliar. Remembering meaningful material is easier than the nonsense syllables. The more times the nonsense syllables were repeated, the less time is needed to reproduce the memorized information.

Forgetting curve

forgetting curve is a graph that demonstrates how the rate of human memory decay varies over time.

Sentence completion exercise (still used in psychology today)

The test was used as part of an intelligence test.

Franz Brentano (1838-1917)

Contrast with Wundt

Brentano's psychology was empirical. The primary method - observation, not experimentation.

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

Mental activity

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

-through memory

-through imagination

Carl Stumpf (1848-1936)

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

phenomena

What is phenomenology according to Stumpf?

Unbiased experience just as it occurs

Oswald Kulpe (1862-1915)

How did Kulpe define psychology?

science concerned with experiences dependent on the experiencing individual.

What was Kulpe's systematic experimental introspection?

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

What did Kulpe mean by imageless thought?

Kulpe's idea that meaning in thought can occur without any sensory or imaginal component.

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?

Titchener discarded Wundt's doctrine of apperception. He focused on mental elements and their mechanical linking through the process of association.

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

To discover the nature of the elementary conscious experiences, analyze consciousness into its component parts and to determine the structure of consciousness.

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

It stimulated the growth of lab work in psychology and influenced many experimental psychologists in future.

Titchener's view of women

He accepted female students in his graduate studies program. He encouraged and supported women's advancement in psychology. Regardless of this support, women were not allowed to attend Titchener Experimentalists meetings where real research progress was discussed between men.

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

Conscious experience

What was meant by stimulus error?

Confusing the mental process under study with the stimulus or object being observed

For Titchener what was meant by introspection?

a technique that relies on self-observation

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
2. Images
3. Affective states

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
2. Intensity
3. Duration
4. Clearness

Criticisms of Structuralism

- the method of studying
- the settings of the experiment
- questioned reliability of self-reports
- required training of the observers

- timeframe between the experience and the reporting it raised the concern about whether the introspection was really a form of retrospection
- Freud's idea of the unconscious mind excluded introspective method from the studies
- - Titchener's conception of the field that was limited and restrictive to the new directions of studies that were being explored.

Contributions of Structuralism

Titchener showed that psychology can be a valid experimental science. He clearly defined conscious experience using the methods of observation, experimentation, and measurement. He introduced introspection as a way to study consciousness. This method of self-observation and introspective reports involving cognitive processes continues to be used in many areas of psychology. Titchener's system for classifying and studying the different structures of the mind is one of the main contributions to structuralism.