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How did James's view of consciousness differ from Wundt's view? And what did James believe was the purpose of consciousness?

William James viewed consciousness, as conscious experiences to be perceived easily, not grouped nor by a collection of elements. The author stated, "The discovery of discrete elements of consciousness through introspective analysis does not show that these elements exist independently of trained observer." (Schultz 136). William James did not accept nor agreed to Wilhelm Wundt's view of consciousness. Wundt's view of consciousness contained disparate parts to be investigated by the methods of analysis or reduction. Wundt explained that the initial step to research a fact must have details of individual elements of which it consists of. On the other hand, William James, stated that psychology is the science of mental life having phenomena and conditions. The phenomena indicates that the subject of the matter is to be found in immediate experience, The conditions alludes to the importance of the body, especially the brain, in mental life. James stated that simple sensations is nonexistence in the conscious experience. It only exists as the result of complicated and difficult process of abstractions. James believed that the purpose of consciousness is a constant flow. The effort to separate into brief distinct phases can only distort it. William James invented the phase "stream of consciousness" to convey this idea.

References

Schulz, Duane P. & Schulz Sydney Ellen. 2015. *History of Modern Psychology 11th Edition*. ISBN-13:978-1-111-82932-2.

Pp 136.