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What made him the founder of psychology?

Wilhelm Wundt was the first scientist to publish a body of work on the subject of psychology. He opened the first psychological laboratory as well. While Fechner proposed some of the main ideas which would create the foundation for psychology, Wundt is known as the founder because of his work and writing which were specifically and formally for the subject field of psychology.

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

Wundt wanted his work to help psychology stand out as its own new field of science.

Gedankenmesser

This was a pendulum that Wundt created so that it would produce an auditory and visual stimulus at the same time. Wundt used it to show that the two stimuli could not be perceived at the same time.

What two important things happened during the Leipzig years?

In Leipzig, Wundt opened a laboratory, and published a journal which later became called *Psychological Studies*.

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?

He believed that psychology should be the study of the elements that make up consciousness. He relied on studying perceptions.

Voluntarism

Wundt referred to voluntarism as the mind's voluntary organization of the contents of conscious experience.

Mediate and immediate experience

A mediate experience refers to observations obtained from an experience that have to do with elements other than the subjective perceptions that the person is having. If a person sees a red apple, their mediate experience includes the information about the apple. Their immediate experience would only include the information they receive through their perception of the apple's color.

Introspection according to Wundt

Introspection was when a person would observe their own responses to external 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 are perceptions of the outside world.
2. Feelings accompany sensations.

Doctrine of apperception – the law of psychic resultants

Apperception is the synthesis of perceptions which creates new ideas.

Wundt's legacy

Wundt provided a foundation for the continued growth of psychology as a field of science.

Hermann Ebbinghaus (1850-1909)

The first to investigate learning and memory experimentally.

What did Ebbinghaus learn about nonsense syllables?

He found that learning a series of nonsense syllables by memory was harder than learning the same amount of syllables when they contained meaningful content.

Forgetting curve

Information is forgotten more rapidly right after it is learned, and more slowly as time goes on.

Sentence completion exercise (still used in psychology today)

Franz Brentano (1838-1917)

Contrast with Wundt

Brentano held opposite beliefs to Wundt. He held that psychology should not focus on the contents of experiences, such as color and sounds; but on the acts of experiencing such as hearing and seeing. He used imagination and memory to observe mental actions.

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

He argued that actions should be the subject matter of psychology. He referred to mental actions and processes.

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

He believed mental acts could be studied through memories of them, and through imagination.

Carl Stumpf (1848-1936)

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

Phenomena.

What is phenomenology according to Stumpf?

It is the study of experiences just as they occur. He did not break the experiences down into parts.

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.” (83

What was Kulpe’s systematic experimental introspection?

It was retrospective observation of mental processes.

What did Kulpe mean by imageless thought?

He meant there could be thoughts or meanings that did not have any images connected to them.

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?

Rather than study the individual elements of the mind alone, Titchener’s goal was to learn the structure of the structure that these individual elements formed through association.

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

He held that the task of psychology was to determine the structure of consciousness.

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

It influenced laboratory workers and psychologists across the United States.

Titchener's view of women

He did not allow women to attend his meetings of experimental psychology. However, he did allow women in his doctoral program.

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

Conscious experience.

What was meant by stimulus error?

This error referred to when an observer would describe an observation in terms of prior associations which were made with the observation. The observer should only describe the observation in terms of the perceptions that they are having.

For Titchener what was meant by introspection?

In Titchener's form of introspection, observers were to only describe the conscious experiences they were having; such as sights and sounds.

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 refer to perceptions.
2. Images refer to ideas of things that are not present in the moment.
3. Affective states refer to emotions.

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 refers to the color or temperature of an experience.
2. Intensity refers to the strength with which the experience is present

3. Duration

4. Clearness refers to the clarity with which the experience is present.

Criticisms of Structuralism

Introspection was criticized, because once a person began to observe their own mind, their mind necessarily began to change in the moment that they began the observation.

Observers frequently disagreed with each other regarding observations using introspection.

Contributions of Structuralism

Introspection is still in use in the field of psychology.