

Chapter 6 The Antecedents of Functionalism

Functionalism is the first uniquely American system of psychology. It focuses on practical, real-world consequences. In the early to mid-1800, functionalism concerns were about the mind/consciousness functions, how it is used, and how organisms adapt to the environment. Charles Darwin, and his notion of evolution, changed the focus of the new psychology from the structure of consciousness to its functions. A focus on animal psychology formed the basis of comparative psychology that animals are like humans. He included his emphasis on the description and measurement of individual differences. Darwin's Grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, was a significant influence in his grandson's life. Erasmus believed there was a God who set life on earth in motion but a God who did not interfere after altering animals or plants or creating new ones.

In 1809 Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, a French naturalist, believed that modifying an animal's bodily form through its efforts to adapt to its environment was termed the behavioral theory of evolution. In the mid-1800s, Charles Lyell thought the earth passed through various stages of development in evolving to its present structure. Next was Sir Francis Galton, Darwin's cousin, who wrote a book called "Hereditary Genius." He believed there were certain types of hereditary geniuses. He proposed Eugenics which suggested you can improve humans by having good genes.

Galton was known for the bell curve in his statistical analysis. He also devised a mental test to see what your skills were. For example, he conducted the first-word association test. He also investigated mental imagery. George Romanes developed a "mental ladder" in which he arranged various types of animal species according to their mental functioning. These came from an anecdotal method. Romanes discovered the animal's intelligence from anecdotal observations through introspection by analogy. Later, his successor C. Lloyd Morgan proposed a law of parsimony to counteract the prevailing tendency to attribute excessive intelligence to an animal. The law of parsimony states that an animal's behavior must not be interpreted as the outcome of a higher mental process when it is likely explained in terms of a lower mental process. When psychologists started to examine mental processes as biologists and each anatomical structure functioning in a total living system, they laid the groundwork for a new movement: functional psychology.

Chapter 7 Functionalism: Development and Founding

Herbert Spencer brought recognition by Darwinism and extended it far beyond Darwin's work. He applied the theory of evolution to human nature and society. Spencer was known for developing and using evolutionary theory in philosophy, psychology, and the study of culture, which he called his "synthetic philosophy." Synthetic Philosophy was a comprehensive work containing volumes on the principles of biology, psychology, morality, and sociology. Samuel Butler was the person who asked the question and who extended the theory of evolution to machines. Next was Henry Hollerith, who discovered a new way of processing information. He created the device for the census and founded IBM. William James, the Anticipator of Functional Psychology, was the primary American precursor of functional psychology—also a pioneer of the new scientific psychology in the United States. James wanted to explore all

aspects of the mind, even the controversial stuff such as spiritualism. James opened the 1st experimental psych lab in America. He wrote the Principles of Psychology. He believes that the psychology of the subconscious is critical to mental healing. James came up with the term stream of consciousness. This a continuously flowing process, and any attempt to reduce it to elements will distort it. According to James, his functionalist psychology methods are introspection as an essential tool, experimental method, and comparative. Mary Whiton Calkins was a pioneer of personality theory. Helen Bradford Thompson Woolley experimented on the Darwinian notion that women were biologically inferior to men. Her results showed no sex differences in emotional functioning and only a small insignificant difference in intellectual abilities. The data did show that women were slightly superior to men in capacities such as memory and sensory perception. She continued to help mentor women psychologists and change labor laws. Granville Stanley Hall was very open to minorities, esp. w/women being educated. His evolutionary theory of development included kids and teenagers. The recapitulation theory of evolution was Hall's idea that children's psychological development repeats the human race's history. John Dewey brought functionalism to Chicago School. Dewey argued that behavior in a reflexive response could not be broken down into elements. Robert Woodworth's system of psychology was concerned with the influence of causal factors and motivations on feelings and behavior, termed dynamic psychology. Functionalism greatly impacted the development of psychology in the United States during this time. The practical application of psychology to real-life problems was functionalism's most significant contribution.

Chapter 8 Applied Psychology: The Legacy of Functionalism

Many of the psychologists trained under Wundt brought little of what he taught back to the states. Many of the first generations of American psychologists were guided much more by the ideas of Darwin, Galton, and Spencer. They were bringing a new science that was changing to adapt to its new environment.

Between 1880 and 1900, American psychology proliferated. James McKeen Cattell promoted a practical, test-oriented approach to studying mental processes. He was more concerned with human abilities. He was not worried about the content of consciousness. Cattell's tests were like Galton's. The tests dealt primarily with sensorimotor measurements. Cattell was the first American psychologist to stress quantification, ratings, and ranking. Cattell developed the order of merit ranking method that is well-known and widely used today. Following her dad's footsteps, Cattell's daughter Psyche Cattell published the Cattell infant intelligence scale.

Louis Leon Thurstone and Thelma Gwinn Thurston developed the Primary Mental Abilities test battery. Following the first actual psychological test of mental ability was invented by Alfred Binet. In today's terms, Lewis Terman developed Binet's intelligence test. Lewis also adopted the concept of IQ, a number that indicates a person's intelligence by the formula: mental age divided by chronological age multiplied by 100. Lightner Witmer, another student of Galton and Wundt, did not follow their practices. Instead, Witmer was interested in assessing and treating learning and behavioral problems in school children. This became an applied specialty today called school psychology. Another advance in functionalism was by psychologist Walter D.

Scott. Scott applied the new science to advertising and business. Scott argued that consumers often do not act rationally, so advertising can easily influence them. WWI brought about the growth of industrial-organization psychology. Lillian Gilbreth was the first person to receive a Ph.D. in the field. Hugo Munsterberg was best known for developing forensic Psychology and Eyewitness testimony. He described psychological factors that could influence the outcome of a trial. James Rowland Angel's contribution to functional psychology was his textbook Psychology. He described functional psychology as a psychology of mental operations compared to structuralism.

Functional psychology is the psychology of psychophysical relations and is concerned with the total relationship of the organism to its environment. Functionalism left its imprint on contemporary American psychology, most significantly through its emphasis on applying the methods and findings of psychology to the solution of practical problems.