

Functionalism chapter 6

With the thoughts and ideas of Charles Darwin the focus of psychology changed from the consciousness to its functions and functionalism start developing. Functionalism focused on how the human mind function and how the brain can be used by an organism to adapt to its environment. The main aim of functionalism was to answer practical questions such as what do mental processes accomplish? Functionalism was studying mind from as a conglomerate or accumulation of functions and processes that lead to practical consequences in the real world.

In America functionalism was against Wundt's experimental psychology and Titchener's structural psychology because these two schools couldn't answer the questions that functionalism was answering. Functionalism was trying to apply the potential of psychology to everyday problems and how people function to daily problems. Functionalism movement caused for the applied psychology across the United States. Functionalism was influenced by Darwin's theories that were sources of a new scientific basis for psychology. Charles Darwin wrote a book about evolution, that is called *On the Origin of Species* and was published a year before the book of Fechner named, *Elements of psychology* and 20 years before Wundt published his laboratory at the university of Leipzig. The idea of the evolution is not begun by the thoughts and ideas of Charles Darwin, but it was recognized by Aristotle in 384-322BC. Darwin believed in variability among individual members of a species, and he reasoned that this spontaneous variability was inheritable. Darwin had observed many species and forms and he took result that there is variation among members of the same species, and if there were no variation among generations then evolution could not happen. That is why the most important principle of evolutionary theory was the variation, and individual differences.

He believed that those species who can best fit to the environment could survive and those who could not fit to the environment would not survive. This idea of Darwin was supported by many scholars and become a source of public debate. Darwin wrote *The Decent of Man* and gathered evidence for human evolution from lower life forms, emphasizing the similarity between animals and human mental processes. By this book many people were shocked, and they thought that Darwin has suggested that human being might be descended from apes. Darwin also argued about facial emotions of human being and body language as an internal emotional state and said that "facial expressions and body language were "innate and uncontrollable manifestation" of internal emotional state." He also contributed about child psychology and literature, by this contribution he draws an image of human development stages and stages of human evolution. Evolutionary psychology opened a new door to psychology, and it changed the goal and the subject matter of psychology. Some of psychologists in the United State were inspired by the ideas and thoughts of Darwin to consider functions that consciousness might serve. Darwin pointed to the evidence that there is no sharp distinction between human minds and animal mind. And he believed that by the continuous evolutionary development process humans have been derived from animals. Darwin wrote "there is no fundamental difference between man and the higher mammals in their mental faculties."

Francis Galton did an investigation of the ancestries and reported in *Heredity Genius*. He found out that being a genius is heredity for instance a great scientist was born in a family that had an already attained eminence in science. He invents statistical method of solving problems. Galton was impressed by Quetelet's data and assumed that similar results would hold for mental characteristics. His work in statistic brought one of the most important measures that named correlation and the first result of correlation was out in 1888. Correlation is one of the most fundamental tools in the social and behavioral sciences as well as in engineering and natural

science. Galton assumed that a person's intelligence could be measured in terms of that person's sensory capacities and the higher sensory functioning can be a result of high intelligence. He invents the apparatus with which to take sensory measurement to determine the highest frequency of sound that could be detected. He also invented photometer to measure the precision with which the subject could match two spots of color, and a calibrated pendulum that could measure the speed of reaction to lights and sounds. He established the Anthropometric laboratory in 1884. Galton's investigation of mental images marks the first extensive use of the psychological questionnaire.

Functionalism: Development and Founding

Chapter 7

Functionalism was against the structuralism of Wundt and Titchener and had not a systematic differentiation. Functionalism was emphasizing on mental functioning, how psychology can be applied in people's daily life, and how every person function in different environments. Applied psychology is one of the most important parts of functionalism in the United State. The most important themes of the functionalist movement are described by James Angell and are: functional psychology as the mental psychology, fundamental utilities of consciousness, and functional psychology as the psychology of psychological relations.

In the United State Darwin's theory of evolution become more popular and was embraced in universities, magazines and even some religious publications. The evolution theory was much more supported in the United State in the 19 century than nowadays. Herbert Spencer argued that the development of all aspects of the universe is evolutionary that includes human character and social institutions according to the survival of the fittest theory. The most enthusiastic part of the evolution was the human nature and society and applying the principles of the evolution theory on it that is called social Darwinism. Spencer believed that the principle of survival of the fittest should be allowed to act freely and that is why the human perfection was inevitable if no interfere action had happened in the process. People and organizations had to develop alone by themselves and in their own ways just as other living species developed and adopted to their natural environment. If government support poor functioning enterprises, these enterprises would endure, ultimately weakening society and violating the basic law of nature that only who are the strongest could survive. In the meantime individualistic spirit of the America was "struggle for existence" instead of "survival of the fittest" that both quickly became part of the national consciousness. Spencer formulated a system called synthetic philosophy. This system was based on the application of evolutionary principles to human knowledge and experiences. Spencer's ideas about this system were published in a series of 10 books between 1860 and 1897.

Samuel Butler extends the theory of evolution to machines. In one of his essays he wrote "Darwin among the Machines" and suggested that mechanical evolution was occurring the same way of evolution of human that were natural selection and the struggle for existence. The same creators are constantly trying to create new machines to gain some competitive advantages, new machine would be replaced with the old ones or machines that eliminated just because they are no longer adoptive.

Herman Hollerith was engineer; he developed a new way of processing information. He invented a machine called punched cards that its system had duplicated human cognitive functioning. William James one of the psychologists whose work was the major American precursor of functional psychology. He had a great interest in mental telepathy, clairvoyance, spiritualism, and communication. James wrote the book "The principles of Psychology" that was published in 1890 and was tremendous success to the field. This book was used as a best textbook by generations of

students and was one the best English book written in psychology. In this book James had a new subject matter for psychology and a new look at consciousness. He wrote that psychology is the science of mental life both of its phenomena and their conditions. He believed that conscious experiences are just the way they are not a collection of elements. Instead of artificial analysis of a conscious experience he called for a new program that was mental life. He believed that mental health is unity and a total experience that constantly change. He then pointed out to a term that called stream of consciousness and said that consciousness is a continues flowing process and if attempt happen to reduce it elements will distort it. He also emphasized on the function or purpose of consciousness. Because psychology deals with a personal and immediate consciousness, introspective became the basic method of psychology. James believed that the only method that can be reliable was introspective observation. He also contradicted the nature of emotion that current thinking is based on. He believed that after physical response emotions would arise but current believes are after feeling, physical responses happen. James was instrumental in facilitating the graduate education of Mary Whiton Calkins and helped her to overcome the barriers. It shows that in this time women were struggling to overcome to the barriers that had existed. Discrimination still had excised against women and the reason was that men believed they are superior to women even those women who had academic degrees. Most of this intellectual superiority thoughts were coming from variability hypothesis that says men show a wider range and variation of physical and mental development than women and the abilities of women are seen more average.

Chapter 8

Evolutionary psychology that functional psychology has been derived from it, was accepted in American societies at the end of the 19th century. And the American psychology was guided by the ideas of Darwin, Galton, and Spencer and then by the work of Wundt. In the United State people became oriented toward practical psychology and it was much well-known sentence that “we need a psychology that is usable”. In this time psychologist took their psychology into the real world that include schools, factories, advertisings agencies, courthouses, child guidance clinics and mental health centers. And that is how the nature of American psychology changed to applied psychology. In the United States there were 41 psychology laboratories by 1900, 40 doctoral programs in psychology in the United State, and more articles published in English. With this process the American zeitgeist helped applied psychology to become more successful but still there were another practical forces that helped the flourishing of the applied psychology. Economic factors turned the attention of psychologist from pure research to application. There were psychologists with doctoral degree they had to look beyond the university for means of economic. Education caught attention of lots of psychologists. In this time there were different approaches that applied psychology invent. Mental testing was one of them that in this approach psychology was more concerned about human abilities rather than the content of consciousness. Mental test examined the motor skills and sensory capacities and used a more complex measures of mental abilities. There also was mental age and IQ approaches in applied psychology, there were more chances for female psychologist, and they had more opportunities to work in clinical and counselling psychology, child guidance, and school psychology. There were clinical movement in applied psychology in the United State. Clinical psychology for child evaluation was working with children who had a broad range of problems such as hyperactivity, learning disability, poor speech, and motor development. Another movement was called industrial-organizational psychology in the field of applied psychology. In the beginning the main aim of

industrial psychology was to match the right person to the right job but by this movement and later its aim become bigger and more included the effects of the physical work environment such as conditions of lighting and temperature, on the efficiency of employees. During the world wars even industrial psychology was used for testing, screening, and classifying of the troops. When industrial psychology gets involved in war there become another movement that named engineering psychology that work closely with weapons systems engineers to supply information about human capabilities and limitations. World war 2 provided a different set of problems for psychology and revived and expended its influences. The psychologists were giving advice on every aspect of a soldier's life in war, from moral and training to food and sex.

Today applied psychology work in testing, educational and school psychology, clinical and counselling psychology, industrial-organizational psychology, forensic psychology, community psychology, consumer psychology, population and environmental psychology, health and rehabilitation psychology, family services, exercises and sports psychology, military psychology, media psychology, addictive behaviors, religious, culture, and concerns of minority groups.