

Chapter Eight: Psychology of Consciousness

Terms

Wissenschaft: Any body of knowledge which is based on “definite principles,” such as history or physics. Does not directly translate to science, but does represent 1800/1900s era German efforts at the study of natural science.

Bildung: The building up of someone’s moral character through broad, multidisciplinary education. Viewed as the spiritual “completeness” of a person. While Bildung was seen as important for individuals to have, it was more important that Bildungsburgers contribute to the state.

Bildungsburger: Someone who has been trained in accordance with the values *Bildung*. Similar to Plato’s theoretical Guardians, though the Bildungsburgers never ruled.

Gemeinschaft: A network of values centered around community and a connection to the rural earth, particularly in one geological location.

Gesellschaft: A network of values in opposition to *Gemeinschaft*, centered around civilization, modernization, a lack of connection with the world (with the soil), and industrial production.

Phenomenology: A study of the mind opposed to the prevailing Cartesian Way of Ideas. Rather than breaking the mind into component parts which perceive the world (and may be deceived), phenomenology posits to study the mind only at the moment of mental experience.

psyche-logos – the study of the soul

Naturwissenschaft – natural science. The study of the physical world and the laws that govern it

Geisteswissenschaft – spritual science. The study of the human world created by history. Specifically, laws that govern human life and development

Innere Wahrnehmung – “internal perception”. Traditional armchair method; non-scientific

Experimentelle Selbstbeobachtung – experimental self observation. Scientifically valid form of introspection.

Vergleichendpsychologische – Comparative psychological methods. Involved the study of consciousness in animals, children and the “disturbed”.

Historisch-psychologische – Historical psychological methods. Involved the study of the historical development of the human race; “mental differences as determined by race and nationality”

Ausfragen method – the method of questions. A question is asked, either simple or complex and the observer is asked to attend to his mental processes that were set in motion by the question

The memory drum - a machine for presenting Ebbinghaus's nonsense syllables at an objectively measurable pace

Intentionalism: Intentionalism theorizes that the mind makes *acts* towards objects, and importantly, does not doubt the existence of the real world.

Apparent motion: Images presented in rapid succession are perceived as being in continuous, smooth motion, as with movies

Bundle Hypothesis: The hypothesis that objects or compounds in consciousness are made up of unchanging atomic elements. "The whole is merely the sum of its parts"

Constancy Hypothesis: The hypothesis that every sensory element in consciousness corresponds to a specific physical stimulus registered by a sense organ.

Dementia praecox: meaning premature dementia, later called schizophrenia. An abnormal state of consciousness identified by Wundt which he described as a breakdown of attentional processes via the loss of apperceptive thought control.

Gestalt: An organized whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts

Gestaltqualitäten: Perceptions based on something beyond individual sensations

Gesamtvorstellung: a whole mental configuration.

Inner phenomena: Cognitive processes that underlie the outer string of words. These processes organize a speaker's thoughts, preparing them to speak, and enables the listener to extract meaning from what they hear. May be a general idea that can take many forms in production, i.e., different words used, to convey the same general meaning.

Outer phenomena: Consists of actually produced or perceived utterances. Example; sounds that we speak or hear

Phi Phenomenon: Wertheimer's name for apparent motion

Völkerpsychologie: The study of the products of collective life (e.g., language, myth and custom) that provides clues into higher operations of the mind. Can be accomplished by studying existing cultures.

Introspection: Wundt's believed that introspection should focus on immediate experience, unmodified by abstraction and reflection. Wundt stressed that while introspecting one should describe and not interpret sensations.

Stimulus Error: when perceptions are reported from introspection rather than from sensations.

Mental Chronometry: the use of response time in perceptual-motor tasks to infer the content, duration, and temporal sequencing of cognitive operations. Mental acts, like physical acts, take time; complex reaction times are the sum of the times of the individuals acts.

Apprehension: passive apperception process involving the entry of sensations into consciousness.

Apperception: focusing attention on the impression; process of attending to particular perceptions; what is attended to is apperceived.

Voluntarism: power to organize contents of mind into higher levels of thought processes.