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B.A. I YEAR UNIT I ,TOPIC-3 SCHOOLS OF PSYCHOLOGY

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DOMINANT SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN PSYCHOLOGY



Structuralism was the first school of psychology and focused on breaking down mental processes into the most basic components. Researchers tried to understand the basic elements of consciousness using a method known as introspection.



WILLIAM WUNDT



INTROSPECTION

The term introspection can be used to describe both an informal reflection process and a more formalized experimental approach that was used early on in psychology's history.



REFLECTION

means the most informally examining our own internal thoughts and feelings. When we reflect on our thoughts, emotions, and memories and examine what they mean, we are engaged in introspection.



FORMALIZED EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH

Means self-observation this Wundt's technique involved training people carefully and objectively as possible to analyze the content of their own thoughts and core feelings.



Wundt Believe that he could carefully analyze each element of the mind, breaking things down into smaller parts, in order to understand how the mind works. In much the same way as a physiologist might look at different parts of the body in order to understand how these parts function together.



Wundt is credited as the founder of structuralism and as the one who established the first laboratory of psychology. It was actually his student, Edward B. Titchener, who coined the term structuralism. Titchener is credited with introducing Wundt's work in America



structuralism became and important force

during the early years of psychology.

Criticism

Rather than simply looking at the parts of consciousness is not enough, functionalism stressed looking at the purpose and function of human thought and behavior.



Importance

Structuralism played an important role during the beginning years of psychology, and understanding how it emerged out of other disciplines into the scientific one.

