

10-12-04 History of Ψ : Chapter 11 (Functionalism): Writing Exercise

Considering that both James and Münsterberg are both considered Functionalism, Please write

Ways in which these psychologists are in agreement and highlight ways that these two functionalists are opposed to one another.

Compare and Contrast James and Münsterberg.

Notes - outline

Similarities

both had analyses that noted a close, direct relationship between thoughts and behavior.

lose correspondence - James's Theory of Emotion

Münsterberg's Analysis of Voluntary Behavior

"consciously experienced emotions are by products of bodily reactions elicited by a situation!"

"the feelings of willful action results from an awareness of covert behavior, or a readiness to act overtly, elicited by a situation"

* "conscious experience is a by product of behavior"

• experimentally oriented Ψ

"did not embrace Wundtian Ψ "

• Directorship @ Harvard Ψ Lab (James the Münsterberg)

Differences

conversely - James - ideas cause behavior

Münsterberg - behavior causes ideas

"James's liberal attitude toward philosophy and Ψ began to irritate Münsterberg - who had a more positivistic approach to science"

Münsterberg said of James no interest in religious mysticism as a component of psychology, "Experimental Ψ and psychic hocus-pocus did not mix."

- experimental & oriented psychologists

• directed towards practical psychology

It is obvious that at least at some point James felt that he and Münsterberg had many things in common in terms of their views on psychology. Not only were they both experimentally oriented psychologists who were diverged from Wundtian psychology but in addition James selected Münsterberg to take over the directorship of the Psychology Laboratory at Harvard University when he decided to leave to pursue other interests. James' election of Münsterberg most likely derived from their similar belief that thoughts and behaviors were directly related. They were different in what they believed what the precipitating event (either idea or behavior) was but

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• Co-creator of Gestalt Psychology

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