

The issue of intelligence in theory and research by Polish psychologists until 1939

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The issue of the dissertation includes topics that deal with the construction of the first method to measure intelligence, the theory of intelligence as well as psychometric research. The conducted analyses are included in the historical research based on the qualitative research strategy. The completion of the dissertation was possible thanks to the analysis and interpretation of printed sources, mainly academic articles, textbooks and normative acts.

The dissertation is based on chronology and category of problems. Its chronological limits start with the period of the formation of scientific psychology (the second half of the 19th century) and end with 1939. However, the author has also taken into account the contemplation of the nature of human intellect in philosophical reflection, which has its origin in Greek philosophy. The choice of 1939 as the end of the period of research done for the dissertation is mainly due to two historical factors. Firstly, the Second World War brought irreparable loss of life of many scholars, especially those who dealt with testing intelligence. Secondly, the emergence of the Stalinism era and considering psychology to be a bourgeois study greatly slowed down the research of intelligence for 20 years.

The dissertation consists of five chapters. The first chapter is an introductory one. It presents the genesis of intelligence research in the pre-scientific (philosophical) period. It includes the first and the most popular methods of intelligence research in the world.

The second chapter is devoted to the theoretical views of Polish psychologists on intelligence. It presents, among other things, some concepts by Jan Władysław Dawid, Władysław Witwicki, Stefan Szuman, Józef Pieter, Jan Schwarz. The reception of William Stern's concept of intelligence is also discussed here. This German scholar's views often used to be commented upon in the Polish psychology of the interwar period.

The third chapter contains knowledge of the way intelligence is measured in research by Polish psychologists. It is the first fully detailed analysis of these methods in the Polish literature. It begins by presenting the observational method. Then the psychological tests available in Poland until 1939 are discussed. The period that psychological tests were made can generally be divided into the period of simple attempts to test intelligence, or until 1905, and the period from 1905 to 1939, which was the period of creating multimode tests and complex scales. In all, 25 testing methods have been discussed in detail. The essential limit in the development of psychological tests was set by the

creation of the first measuring scale for intelligence - *The Binet-Simon Scale*. That is why a substantial part of the dissertation is devoted to its construction and revision done by Luis Terman, as well as their Polish adaptations.

Chapter 4 deals with the selected issues and controversies connected with intelligence testing that Polish psychologists had been paying attention to until 1939. It discusses both methodological issues and discussions on the structure of intelligence, its nature, as well as the specifics that are a result of the characteristics of the people under examination (gender, age, abilities, hobbies). It also presents legal conditionings that have an impact on diagnosing intelligence.

Chapter 5 presents some selected issues connected with using intelligence testing. Intelligence research in educational system such as selective counselling and the study of intelligence at school have been discussed. Moreover, in this chapter it has been described the intelligence studies in the labour organisations including professional counselling and pre-employment testing.

Appendices include a list of people who had dealt with intelligence testing until 1939.

The research has shown that in early academic works intelligence was considered the characteristics of human psyche that determines it the most. In initial reflections, attention was paid mainly to the issue of retardation and then the issue of high intelligence raised interest. This research turned out to be particularly important in education and work organisation.

In answer to social needs, research on the construction of psychological methods was taken up. Three main ways to work on them were chosen. The first one was to adapt the well-known methods to test intelligence, another one was to create your own suggestions, and the third one was to join the other two, or create one's own methods, inspired to a different extent by well-known attempts and batteries.

Apart from Binet's method and its Stanford revision, the most frequently used test batteries in Poland have been adaptations of Otis' tests made by Bronisław Biegeleisen, Maria Grzywak-Kaczyńska's tests for children aged 10 to 18, Stefan Baley's tests. In the construction of those tests and other tests discussed in the dissertation, Polish scholars were most strongly inspired by the academic achievements of England, France, Germany, and the United States of America. The only method that was fully created by the author was the dissertation by Jan Władysław Dawid and Antoni Mikulski. The other tests were simple or more complicated modifications of well-known test methods and tasks.

The main direction for development in intelligence study were the researches done in schools, which were strictly connected with selecting children for specific types of schools. Undoubtedly, the research connected with the development of applied psychology and professional counselling was a significant area, too. The level of intelligence determined getting qualified for particular professions

or career advancement. Intelligence was also examined in its clinical and psychopathological aspects. Its connections to sicknesses and impact on particular behaviour (including breaking social norms) were studied as well.

The author hopes that the research methods collected and presented in the dissertation not only have a historical meaning, but they will also become an additional source of reflection and the inspiration for today's constructors of test tasks. The results of intelligence examinations collected in the dissertation may become a base for comparative study together with the results obtained at present.

Key words:

the history of intelligence research, methods to measure intelligence, theories of intelligence

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