

Lev S. Vygotsky as a methodologist of psychology

Presentation

Lev S. Vygotsky (1896 – 1934) as a methodologist of psychology



Methodological significance of scientific theory

- Explanatory potential;
- heuristic potential;
- Prognostic potential;
- Practical value;
- Coverage of all levels of methodological knowledge

Levels of methodological knowledge (Eric Yudin, 1976)

Level	Content
Philosophic	Philosophic theories as a basis of concrete scientific theories
General scientific theories	At the mid-twentieth century: cybernetics (N. Wiener), general theory of systems (L. von Bertalanffy); in modern science – synergy (Hermann Haken)
Concrete scientific theories	Cultural & historical theory as scientific methodology
Methods & techniques of scientific research	Genetic formative experiment as research techniques

Cultural & historical theory – philosophic aspects

- giving up of Cartesian dualism as philosophic basis of psychology;
- Concretization of [Marxism](#) (historical materialism) concerning psychology

Cultural & historical theory – general theoretic aspects

- Approach to psychological reality (for instance, higher psychological functions) as systems;
- Holistic approach to research of psychological reality

Cultural & historical theory – concrete theoretic aspects

- Heuristic potential is not still exhausted;
- Applications in new areas of psychology;
- New facilities in combination with present scientific methodology

Cultural & historical theory: the level of research methods & techniques

Genetic formative experiment:

- Active role of experimenter as mediator in the process of child's "growing in culture";
- At the beginning of experiment the new structure of psychic function is not formed;
- The new structure of psychic function as a result of formative experiment.

Thanks for attention!