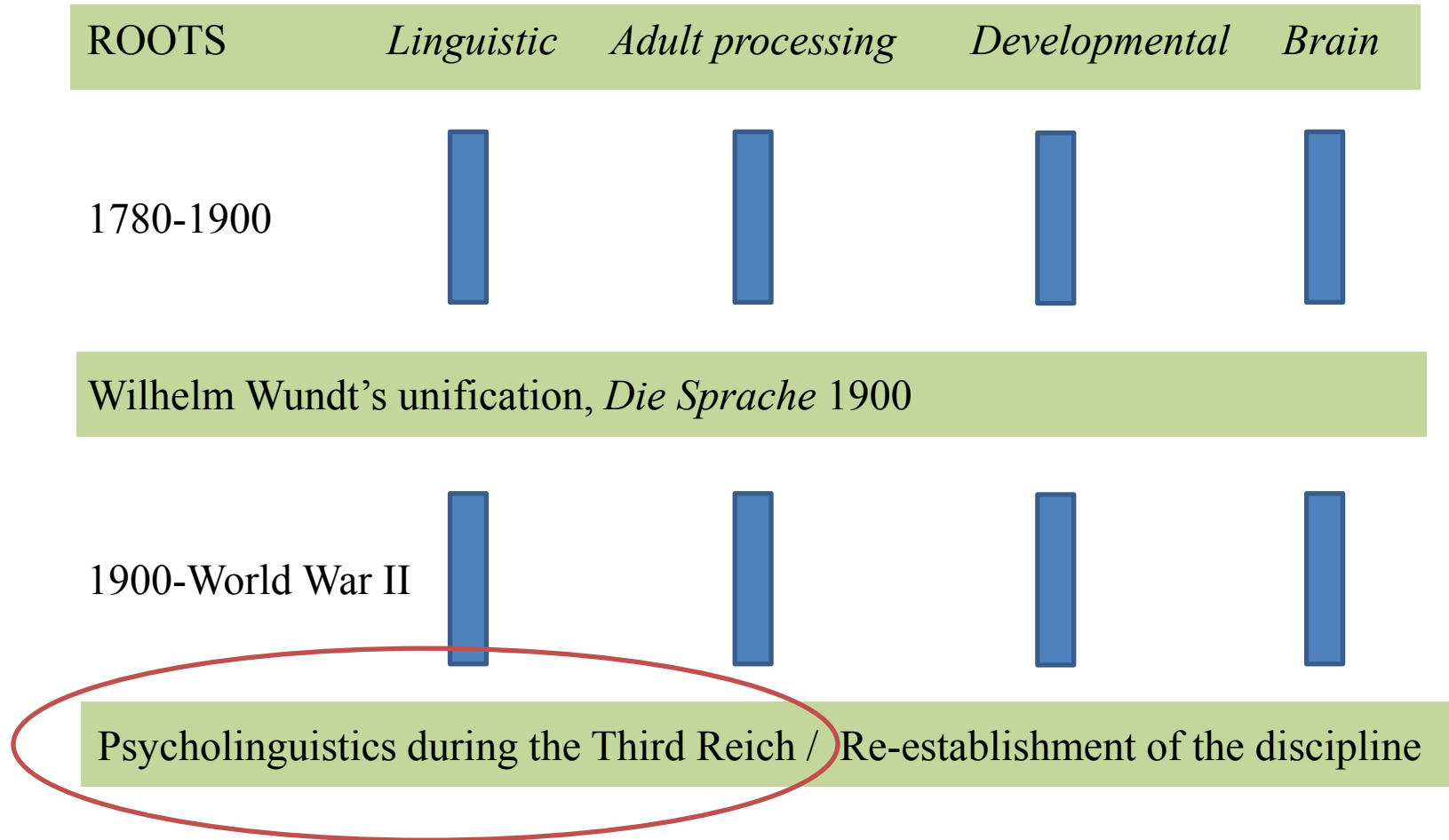


LECTURE 5 PSYCHOLINGUISTICS DURING THE THIRD REICH



LANGUAGE DIVERSITY: THE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL VIEWS

Vertical view: there is a hierarchy of perfection/complexity in the world's languages. Low levels can be observed in savages, children, deaf people, people with aphasia, farmers, women and the mentally disordered.

Horizontal view: there is no such thing as language superiority. Languages just *differ*.

LINGUISTIC RELATIVITY

From the vertical perspective:

users of different languages will differ in the complexity of ideas they can express and hence entertain in their community.

From the horizontal perspective:

if languages are just different, they may invite, facilitate different *ways* of thinking, none better or worse than the other, all with their special affordances.

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Benjamin Whorf (1897-1941)



JOHANN LEO WEISGERBER (1899-1985)

Muttersprache und Geistesbildung (1929)



*after language acquisition, it is not man who thinks,
but the mother tongue for him.*

“HUMAN RACES DIFFER IN DEVELOPMENTAL POTENTIAL”

Francis Galton's eugenics: *to give to the more suitable races or strains of blood a better chance of prevailing speedily over the less suitable than they otherwise would have had.*

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Kurt Goldstein (1913) about the white race: *We can consider it as the most developed one and consider its increasing spread over the world as a sign of increasing development of the human race. Whether we will succeed in permanently keeping the white race as the leading one in the world, cannot be decided.*

WIDESPREAD ANTI-SEMITISM

Francis Galton (1884): *It strikes me that the Jews are specialized for a parasitical existence upon other nations, and that there is a need of evidence that they are capable of fulfilling the varied duties of a civilized nation by themselves.*

WIDESPREAD ANTI-SEMITISM

Jacques van Ginneken (1914) on the Jewish character as reflected in their syntax:

No periods, no richly structured, deep thought-out language constructions, but sober, naïve sentences, loosely connected together, by the eternal and . . . and . . . and . . . for us a maze, for them the flowering garden in which their thoughts ripple and play like butterflies.

The inner life of the Jews is not fine, however passionate in full power. . straight for the sexual and straight for the money.

GEORG SCHMIDT-ROHR (1890-1945)

Unsere Muttersprache als Waffe und Werkzeug des deutschen Gedankens (1917)

Die Sprache als Bildnerin der Völker (1932)

Mutter Sprache— von Amt der Sprache bei der Volkwerdung (1933)

Rasse und Sprache (1939). *Rasse*, 6, 161-168.

JOHANN LEO WEISGERBER (1899-1985)

Bretons, as a sister people, should shake off the French joke.

Vom Weltbild der deutsche Sprache (1950)



THE 1931 CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Host: William Stern at Hamburg University

Chair: Karl Bühler

Board: William Stern, Karl Bühler, Gunther Kafka, Narziß Ach,
David Katz, Felix Krueger, Walther Poppelreuter

Language day participants: Narziß Ach, Karl Bühler, Ernst Cassirer,
Abraham Grünbaum, Hans Gruhle, Gunther Ipsen,
Leo Weisgerber, Heinz Werner

THE 1933 CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Host: Felix Krüger at Leipzig University

Chair: Felix Krueger

Board: Felix Krueger, Walther Poppelreuter, Otto Klemm,
Narziß Ach, Erich Jaensch, Oswald Kroh, Johann Rieffert

THE 1933 “RESTORATION” OF THE UNIVERSITIES

Gesetz zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums
(April 7, 1933)

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Wolfgang Köhler *to Swarthmore, Dartmouth*

David & Rosa Katz *to Stockholm University*

Max Isserlin *to Sheffield UK*

Otto Selz *to Amsterdam and Auschwitz*

FELIX KRUEGER (1874-1948)

1933 host and organizer of Congress German Psychological Society

1935-1936 rector of Leipzig University, not a party member.

1936 dismissed as rector

1938 resigned as professor

FESTSCHRIFT FELIX KRUEGER (1934)

Friedrich Sander:

Bilingual children are in danger. They will not acquire a unitary conception of the world. They don't develop normal right-handedness, are prone to aphasia and making speech errors. German children in borderline regions should be taught German only.

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY PARIS 1937

Symposium on Psychology and Language

Convener: Henri Delacroix

Among the participants: Viggo Broendal, Karl & Charlotte Bühler,
Louis Hjelmslev, André Martinet, Henk Pos

THE AUSTRIAN *ANSCHLUß* (March 12, 1938)

Karl Bühler imprisoned (March 23 to May 7, 1938)

suspended (April 23)

dismissed (May 31, 1938)

KONRAD LORENZ ON KARL BÜHLER'S IMPRISONMENT

“Meanwhile, much happened here namely in terms of business, which should be known by the Mentor. The Professor of Psychology, Prof. Bühler, is not only gone, but incarcerated [*heftig eingesperrt*], it is not clear why, but it is certain that he has glossed over and lied about the descent of his fully Jewish wife, that he probably swindled currencies, he had Rockefeller funds. In addition, he was subsequently so intensively red and black, after the fashion of the moment, that that suffices as an explanation. At any rate, he won't return.”

Psychology of perception is precisely the great tradition of the former Bühler-institute . . . and A. hopes to get the equipment of the Bühler-institute, and to continue the tradition (be it on a much better biological base, an advantage of the medical people . . . over the human psychologists). That is all fine and good. But it requires, that a man will get into the Bühler-institute, who will not overlap with, but complement what A. planned, and that should be me, thinks A.

A professorship is not to be scorned, because I really feel the vocation and obligation, to gather a school and to intervene in the confused chatter of psychology.

...to squeeze human psychology and to put something new in its place, something *real* . Above all something really ‘species-specific’ German, because I must say (in strictest confidence), that for the experts, human psychology, also in its present German representatives, keeps being mixed with the intellectual legacy of the Jewish-chattering and word-orgiastic big Jews. [*wortschwelgenden Judengrößen*]

FATE OF LANGUAGE SCIENTISTS FROM VIENNA/PRAGUE

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Karl & Charlotte Bühler *to Cedars of Lebanon Hospital & U. S. California*

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Frieda Goldman-Eisler *to London*

KARL KLEIST AND THE LAWS ON STERILIZATION AND EUTHANASIA



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Law for the Prevention of Genetically
Defective Progeny (1933)

KARL KLEIST AND THE LAWS ON STERILIZATION AND EUTHANASIA



Law for the Prevention of Genetically
Defective Progeny (1933)

Hitler's personal decree on euthanasia (1939)

FRIEDRICH KAINZ (1897-1977)



1925 Habilitation on Aesthetics

1930 Paper on the German racial type, common to German-Austrian literary history

1938 Interim director Psychological Institute

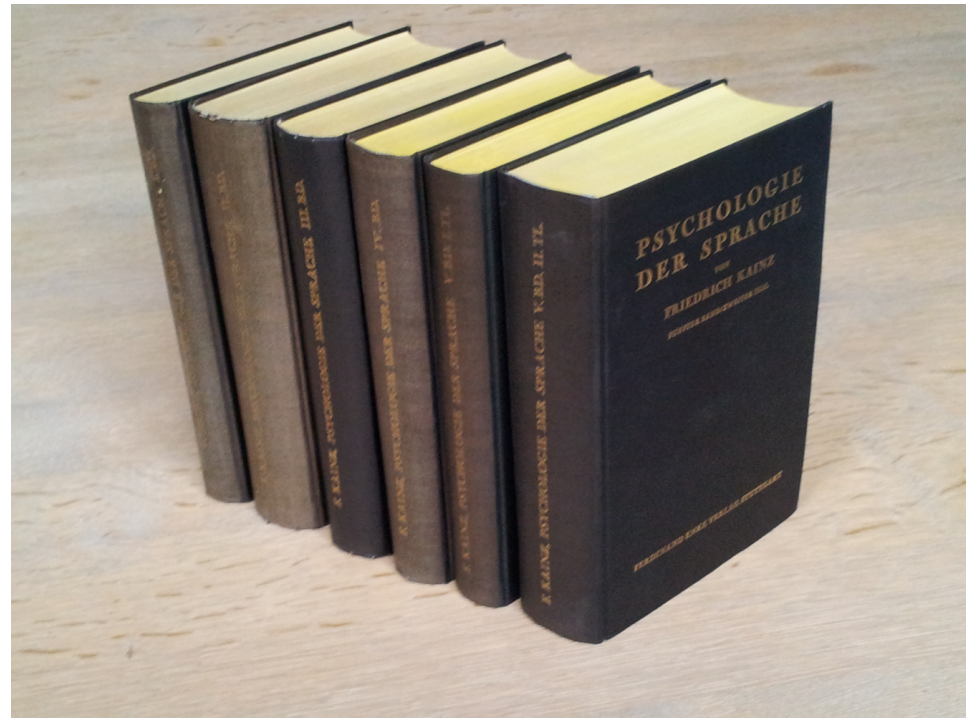
1941 Review of authors on German Language/*Volk*

1941-1969 *Psychologie der Sprache* (6 volumes)

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