

<LG_02_Linguist>

Révész, Géza

<LG_03_Text>

Révész, Géza, b. 9.12.1878, Siófok (Hg), d. 19.8.1955, Amsterdam (Netherlands). Hg. psychologist who worked on the psychology of lang., music, intelligence and talent, sound psychology, business psychology and many other domains in psychology

R. studied in Göttingen with G.E. MÜLLER (1850-1934) and wrote his Ph.D. on the physiology of light perception. In the 1920s R. came to Amsterdam where he became an unsalaried university lecturer in psychology and pedagogy. He founded the psychological laboratory in Amsterdam and became its first director. His work on language focuses upon the problem of the origin of language. This origin cannot be studied in linguistics alone but has to consider psychological and pedagogical findings. Lang. is a product of human creativity and can be studied like music or other expressions of the human mind. To highlight the place of lang. in this field of human expressions like architecture or painting, R. goes back to the phylogenetic and ontogenetic origin of expressions of lang. He considers it to be the result of interaction between living beings although in his main work on lang. (1946) R. points out that it can be studied as the object of almost every human science: theology, biology, anthropology, psychology and philosophy. Although it seems that it is hard to reconstruct early stages of lang. development he relates the development of human intelligence to the invariability of animal behavior over the centuries. Animals are thus subjected to nature, to their environmental conditions, human beings are able to subject nature to its possibilities for mankind mainly based upon reason and lang. These are the main features of mankind and in using these special abilities or faculties man distinguishes himself from animals. Contrary to animal communication systems lang. develops itself over time, it has a history. This history has three stages: a prehistory which is not linguistic, an early history which deals with early human sound- or gesture systems and a history which is documented. This theory of three phases is mainly based on logical insights which R. found in the ontogenesis of language in children, starting with reflexes and ending up with a complex linguistic system. R. is well aware that prehistorical and early stages can only be reconstructed by means of analogy with the development of language we see in children. R.'s starting point is a theory of contact which methodologically and theoretically explain the basic function of language, the intention of men to reach mutual understanding in utterances and communication by means of words and word combinations (1946: 28). The social dimension of communication can be found in the prehistorical phase, dominated by sounds of contact, crying or shouting addressing others (*Zuruf* and *Anruf*), the historical phase in which early forms of language can be distinguished, and in the historical phase in which words (*Wörter*) and sentences have been fully developed. One could distinguish a wordless phase and a linguistic phase in which man disposes of words and sentences to communicate one's feelings, thoughts etc. to others. R. influenced several psychologists and methodologists like A.D. DE GROOT (1914) on playing chess and thinking, H. DUJCKER on extra lingual elements in speech and C. VAN PARREREN (1920-1991) who became famous as a specialist on developmental psychology and psychological functions and the Russian psychology of learning.

<LG_04_Linguist's works>

(1940): "Het probleem van den oorsprong der taal", *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Psychologie en hare grensgebieden* 8, 143-157. (1943): "Das Grundprinzip des menschlichen Wesens", *Tijdschrift voor Philosophie* 5, 553-578. (1946). *Ursprung und Vorgeschichte der Sprache*. Bern. For an overview on his published and unpublished work cf. the Révész Library on the internet.

<http://cf.uba.uva.nl/en/libraries/psychology/bibliographyrevesz.html>

<LG_05_Literature>

DAEL, J. van(1972). *De ontwikkeling van de psychologie in Nederland tot 1940*. Amsterdam. EISENGA, L.K.A. (1978). *Geschiedenis van de Nederlandse psychologie*. Deventer. VONK, F. (1996). "Linguistik und Psychologie. Sprachursprung und

Sprachfunktionen“, in: Dutz, K.D. et al. (eds.), *Theorie und Rekonstruktion*, Münster, 181-205.

<LG_06_Author>
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