**THE
MACMILLAN
DICTIONARY OF
PSYCHOLOGY**

.....
SECOND EDITION

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SECOND EDITION

**STUART
SUTHERLAND**

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Preface to the first edition

Why write another dictionary of psychology? After all, several have been published in the last few years. The answer is that most of them despite their titles have been encyclopaedias not dictionaries, one has been more of a dictionary of psychiatry than of psychology and none have had the aims of the present dictionary. Nowadays, almost every book on psychology contains a vast number of technical terms many of which are from other disciplines, including physics, mathematics, computing science, artificial intelligence, logic, philosophy, linguistics, psychiatry, optometry, neurology, neurophysiology, neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, anthropology, and sociology. The aim of the present dictionary is to define not just psychological terms but as many as possible of those terms from related disciplines that pop out of the page whenever one reads anything on psychology. In fact, were it not that the title is awkward this volume would have been called 'A Dictionary *for* Psychologists'.

Although the dictionary contains no extended essays, I have tried to give enough material on each term to allow the reader to grasp both its meaning and its significance. Examples are provided of the ways in which many of the terms are used since these are often much easier to grasp than an abstract definition. I have, moreover, excluded all terms that are used by psychologists in exactly the same way as in everyday life. No definitions will be found of 'anger', 'rage', and 'hatred' nor – to balance the picture – of 'joy', 'delectation' and 'liking', though I have been unable to resist inserting an unorthodox definition of 'love'. Indeed, I have not hesitated to make unconventional comments on some of the more controversial terms or to censure from time to time those who invented them and those who have propagated them. I hope that anyone who believes in the wilder excesses of behaviourism, cognitive science, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, and other disciplines will forgive the occasional streak of levity. Psychology is too important a subject to take seriously.

It is well known that the medical profession have long tried to disguise their ignorance of diseases by inventing pretentious words usually based on Latin and Greek roots. Excessive phlegm is known as 'bronchitis', while inability to have an orgasm becomes 'primary orgasmic dysfunction'. American psychiatrists have recently discovered a new syndrome for which the technical term is 'post-vacation dysphoria'. True to the medical tradition, psychoanalysts produced a massive vocabulary of their own, not all of which can be included here, though I hope that almost all the psychoanalytic terms that would be encountered in a book on psychology can be found. Psychologists have been less influenced by medicine, but as a glance at the dictionary will show, even they have not been immune from the passion to invent new terms. Social psychologists have for the most part had the sense to use English words without distorting their meanings. For this reason there are fewer technical terms from social psychology than from most other aspects of the subject. It is to their credit that there is no need for entries on 'persuasion' or 'leadership'.

I have tried to avoid 'sexist' writing, but after considerable thought I have sometimes had to resort to it in order to avoid cumbersome and distracting phrases; in particular I have used 'he' and 'him' to denote a member of either sex. Perhaps regrettably, in current English these are the unmarked form (see entry under **markedness**): this usage has historical origins and has no bearing on contemporary attitudes any more than does the sailor's use of 'she' to refer to her or his ship.

It is customary for dictionary writers to acknowledge that their work is likely to contain mistakes, and to ask readers to write pointing out any they encounter. I apologise for any

errors that have crept into mine, but I beg the reader not to draw my attention to them: it was depressing enough searching out the technical vocabulary in psychology and related subjects without having to learn at the end of it all that I have got everything wrong.

NSS

Preface to the second edition

In the six years since the first edition of this dictionary was published, there has been a spate of new terms, particularly in cognitive science and the neurosciences. The increasing number of terms has been compounded by the persistent and growing belief that initials are more impressive than the expressions they stand for. To avoid readers being baffled by initials, the commoner ones are included here. Altogether I have added about one thousand new terms without deleting any of the original ones.

For the sake of readers who wish to peruse this book in bed and do not like weight on their stomach, I have used various devices to shorten the text, including running together alphabetically consecutive headwords that are synonyms and listing 'Law of X' only under 'X, law of' rather than having two entries.

Two cautions should be made. (1) There are now such a vast number of mental tests and so many computer programs in AI and computer simulation that I have had to include definitions only for those that are best known. (2) The fourth edition of the (American) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual came out in 1994, unfortunately shortly after my own revision was complete. It has only been possible therefore to include a few of the new terms from DSM-IV.

Apart from providing new terms, I have revised many of the original entries, either to improve clarity or to correct errors. In my preface to the first edition, I begged the reader not to draw attention to errors. I now wish I had not done so and am grateful to the few readers who ignored my request. I am also grateful to all those who have helped me both with this and the previous edition, but must point out that any remaining errors are their responsibility not mine.

NSS

August 8 1995

Acknowledgements

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Robert J. Campbell. *Psychiatric Dictionary*. Fifth edition. Oxford University Press, 1981.

Raymond J. Corsini. *Encyclopaedia of Psychology*. John Wiley & Sons, 1984.

David Crystal. *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Second edition. Basil Blackwell, 1985.

Robert M. Goldenson. *Longman Dictionary of Psychology and Psychiatry*. Longmans, 1984.

Arthur S. Reber. *The Penguin Dictionary of Psychology*. Penguin, 1985.

For help with terms in the second edition I wish to thank Peter Clifton, Chris Darwin, John Maynard-Smith, John Mollon, and Dai Stephens.

Notes on use

The order of headings is based on the alphabetical sequence of letters in the term, ignoring spaces, hyphens, accents, and numerals. (Thus **16PFO** is to be found between **peyote** and **PGO spikes**.)

In general, headings are not inverted, e.g. there is an entry under **ambiguous figure**, and *not* under **figure, ambiguous** (though under **figure** there is a cross-reference to alert the reader to the existence of **ambiguous figure**.) An exception to the rule of inversion is made for the various laws, methods and principles, e.g. there is an entry under **assimilation, law of**, and *not* under **law of assimilation**.

Cross-references appear in SMALL CAPITALS.

Some articles define not only the term in the heading, but one or more subsidiary terms, which appear in **bold type**, e.g. the headings **cone monochromatism** and **rod monochromatism** direct the reader to *see* **monochromatism**, where those terms are defined.

Where synonyms are in consecutive alphabetical order and are clearly connected, they frequently appear together in bold as head words with a single definition, e.g. **algaesthesia, algaesthesia**. Entries for an expression that can be abbreviated normally appear under the full expression; in cases where it is much more common to use the term's initials, the entry appears under the initials, e.g. **N-methyl-D-aspartate** is given a cross reference to NMDA where the definition is to be found.

People are usually referred to by surname only. Where confusion can arise, because there is more than one worker of the same name, initials or a first name are added.