

Section W. S. MERLIN'S 120th ANNIVERSARY

HISTORY AND METHODOLOGY OF STUDYING HUMAN STYLES IN THE THEORY OF W. S. MERLIN (to the 120th anniversary of the birth of a scientist)



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The article is devoted to the analysis of the history of the creation and development of the doctrine of an individual style of activity developed by W. S. Merlin and his disciples. In the development of ideas about human styles in the scientific school of W. S. Merlin, several lines characterize the transition from one research stage to another: 1) from the study of a style in connection with the basic properties of the nervous system to its study in connection with the different levels of integral individuality; 2) from the characteristics of a style in a narrow plan that reflects the procedural and operational characteristics of activity, behavior, etc., to the characterization of its structure on a broader scale, which includes features in the productive side of a style, to the system of its internal conditions and the reflection by a subject of external conditions of vital activity; 3) from the study of a style at the level of its sufficient formation to the study of different levels of its development, 4) from the characteristics of a style as a system to its polysystem characteristic, 5) from the allocation of adaptive and compensatory functions of a style to the isolation of new functions: system-forming, integrative, developing, etc., 6) from

predominantly adaptive schemes to the consideration of the interaction of a style with the world to schemes that reflect the activity of a subject in this interaction, that associated with the application of a subjective approach to the study of a style, 7) from the learning styles of different activities to the study of the styles of other aspects of human life: activity, behavior, self-organization, etc. This indicates the fairly well-formed theory of a style, which acts as one of the leading, along with the theory of an integral individuality and a subject. These theories provide a holistic knowledge of man in Russian psychology.

Keywords: style, vital activity, activity, behavior, traits, integral individuality, procedural side of style, productive side of a style, internal conditions, external conditions, style functions, style development, system, polysystem, integration.

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