

Alexander Luria's Impact on American Clinical Neuropsychology

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## I. Approach/Disclaimer

### A. What It Isn't

#### 1. Yankee Imperialism

a. Cuban (not American)

b. World-view

#### 2. Analysis of Luria

a. Too Much Information for a 15 Minute Presentation

b. Would not do Justice Due to My Limited, First-hand Exposure

### B. Biased Perspective

#### 1. Foreign-Born

a. Neither Russian, nor American

b. No Clear Intellectual Lineage, Especially in Clinical Neuropsychology

*(Sperk)*

#### 2. No Particular Camp/Paradigm

a. Two Major Camps

(1). LNNB vs HRNB

(2). Fixed vs Flexible Battery

## II. Purpose of Presentation

### A. Impact of Luria in America

1. Clinical Neuropsychology (not Neuropsychology)

2. Psychology and not Related Disciplines

3. USA and not the Rest of the Americas

### B. Potential Limitations of Luria (at least perceived)

1. Regardless of Elegance, Shortcomings Exist

2. Eventual Refinement (Kuhn)

C. Provide Better Exchange of Ideas

1. Between the Two Major Powers in Clinical Neuropsychology

2. Generic Benefit of the Field

a. Cole (1984)- Explore "the World Beyond our Borders"

b. Cole (1988)- Appreciation of Russia's Socio-cultural Emphasis

III. Analysis of American Clinical Neuropsychology (Backdrop)

A. Brief History

1. Psychology as a Large Enterprise in America

a. APA membership= 150,000

b. Psychlit citations between 1984-1997= 724,039

1. Neuropsychological Backdrop

2. WWII and the VA System

3. GI Bill and Growth of the American University

4. Expansion of Health Care (Medicare)

5. Expansion of the Practice of Psychology (Virginia Blues)

EXPERIMENTAL  
↓  
CLINICAL

B. Psychometric Perspective

1. Historical Foundations

a. Galton & Binet

b. Terman

c. Wechsler

2. Theoretical Foundations

a. Halstead

b. HRNB

3. Modern Clinical Neuropsychology

a. Goldstein

b. Others (Lezak, et al)

C. Present-minded and Related Limitations

1. The Decade of the Brain

2. American Self-Centeredness

D. Review of the 1990 "Status of Clinical Neuropsychology" Paper

1. Scientific Revolution

2. Professional Revolution

E. Current Economic Revolution in Health Care (or How Capitalism Affects Science)

1. Review of Last Five Year's Changes

2. Current Economic Climate (e.g., HMO's)

IV. Survey Studies

A. General History of Psychologists: Markers & Surveys

1. Korn Survey

2. APA Lifetime Achievement Award

B. General History of Neuropsychologists: Markers & Surveys

1. Noble Prizes

a. Pavlov

b. Sperry

2. Long 1984 Review

a. Halstead

b. Reitan

c. Luria

RVA  
BALZOW

2. Bazron Survey of American Neuropsychologists

3. Solso 1985 & 1991 Survey (Luria)

### C. Recent Test APA Survey

1. Indirect Influence

BATTERY → individual tests

### D. Citation Review

1. Psychlit (1974 through August, 1997)

a. Total= 1305

b. Range= 5 (1997) to 91 (1984)

c. Mean= 44 per year

d. Citations <sup>mostly</sup> Equally Split ~~Between Luria & LNNB~~, now EVAL

e. Year Analysis= See slide

2. SciSearch (1974 through August, 1997)

a. Luria as author= 12

b. Luria as cited= 2787

3. Social SciSearch (1972 through September, 1997)

a. Luria as author= 25

b. Luria as cited= 4389

## V. Christensen's Interpretation of Luria

### A. Who Brought Luria to America

1. Luria (1980; Clinical Neuropsychology)

2. Luria's Students

- a. Majovski (1979)
- b. Ardila (1995, etc)
- c. Glozman (1996, etc)
3. Solso (1985 & 1991)
4. Cole (1978, 1985 & 1991)
5. Others

- a. Goldstein (1981)
- b. Horton (1987)

#### B. Christensen's Perspective

1. Her Appreciation for Luria (1996)
2. Loose Interpretation of Luria
3. Rigid Exam and Stimuli (copyright)

#### C. Limitations of Perspective

1. One Variation (Western European)
2. Neither Psychometric nor Case Study ?
3. Not Enjoyed Wide-spread Popularity (but introduced Luria & Christensen)

### VI. Luria-Nebraska Neuropsychological Battery

#### A. Development of the Luria-Nebraska Battery

1. Golden (Hammeke & Purisch)
2. South Dakota
3. JCCP 1978

#### B. Brief Presentation of the Battery

1. Theory

2. Structure

3. Dynamics

4. Use and Impact

a. Fifth Most Widely Cited NP Test (WMS, Bender, MMS, HR)

b. APA Survey: Top 5 Test (MMPI, WAIS, HR)

c. Citation Review (1984-1997)

a. Equal Split Between Psychometrics & Disorders

b. Primarily Adult (Elderly, Adolescent, Child)

ITEM INTERPRETATION  
OF THE LNNB

### C. Limitations of the Luria-Nebraska

1. Criticism Levelled by Russians

a. Akhutina (1983)

(1). Not Qualitative

(2). Appreciation of Interest in Luria

2. Criticism Levelled by Americans

a. e.g., Adams (1980)

(1). Methodological Problems (sample, test development)

(2). Clinical Confounds (over-emphasis on language, etc)

(3). Misunderstanding of Luria's Theories

(4). Aggressive & Personal Attacks

3. Personal Perspective

a. "False Start" but at Least a Start

### D. Beyond Limitations: Impact in Psychology and Neuropsychology

1. Expansion of Clinical Neuropsychology

## 2. Widespread Introduction of Luria to American Psychology & NP

- (a). Prior to Golden, Luria was Just a Distant Theory <sup>40 Psychology</sup>  
(and some non-psychology)
- (b). The Number of Citations of Luria Increased Dramatically

## VII. Flexible Approach

### A. Background

#### 1. European Influence

- a. Less Psychometric, More Case Study
- b. Process Approach

#### 2. Alternative to HRNB & LNNB

### B. The Boston Approach

- 1. Basic Tenents
- 2. Luria's Potential Influence

### C. Limitations

- 1. Neither Fish nor Fowl (science vs art?)
- 2. Problematic in Today's Economic Climate

## VIII. Current Trends

### A. Overall Summary/Analysis

- 1. Most Luria Citations=LNNB
  - a. Since 1984, only 5% of References not LNNB
  - b. Of Those, Either Foreign or Non-psychology
- 2. Almost All Luria Citations are About His Theory
  - a. Outside Isolated References, Theory Prevails
  - b. Typically, Interpretation of Luria



3. Disproportionately Large # Outside of Psychology

a. Within Psychology, Areas Such as Psychoanalysis

b. Otherwise, Education, Anthropology, etc.

B. Alternative Presentations of Luria

1. Ardila

2. Others (Goldberg, Tupper, etc)

C. Current Efforts to Increase Understanding of Luria

1. Russian Series

a. Luria's Biography

b. Other Publications

2. Neuropsychology Review

3. Exchange of Personnel (e.g., Glozman)

IX. Future Directions

A. Historical & Archival

1. Importance of Primary Sources

2. Much Information Not Yet Available

B. Continued Increased Understanding

1. Of Luria

2. Of Each Other's Approach to Neuropsychology

X. Summary and Conclusions

A. Historical Narcissism & Revisionism vs. Historical Fidelity & Evolution

1. Will the Real Alexander Luria Please Stand Up

a. Luria in USA vs Luria in Russia

b. False Start, Least a Start (Great One, at That- Sperry)

2. Will the Real Russian Neuropsychology Please Stand Up

a. Russian Neuropsychology to the West=A Version of Luria

b. Give USA= Becheterev, as well as Modern Luria

B. Agenda for the Future

1. Begin for the West to Appreciate the Richness of Russian Psychology,

a. Focus on Socio-cultural Perspectives

b. Some Historians of Psychology Consider Russian History as  
Important as European & American History

2. Need for Most Correct Presentation of Luria

3. Need for Development of Exchange Between Different Perspectives

4. Focus of Truly Global Theories of Human Brain Function Depends  
on a Better and More Accurate Exchange of Concepts

5. No Better Place to Start Than with Luria