

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

Experts on intellect agree that intellect is the conception, rather than a “thing”. Myers, 2008 states that when somebody says “her IQ equals to 120”, they attribute some features of a “thing” to IQ and imagine IQ as the thing, possessed by a human being – while this is a result of a test once taken. The human being should say “her result of IQ test was 120” (Myers, 2008). Intellect is a socially described conception. Different cultures features of the intellect are identified as any characteristics that aids at achieving success within the given culture (Sternberg, Kaufman, 1998). According to authors Sternberg and Kaufman (1998), Amazonian jungle can define intellect as the ability to distinguish between plants, i.e. knowing which plant can cure some particular diseases. “Intellect is the ability to learn from experience, solve problems, use knowledge, adapting to new situations” (Myers, 2008). Interest in special abilities of people led to many scientific discussions the result of which was IQ, the so-called intellect coefficient. “Its base – the average value of 100 points, with the more simple part of the society living under this line and the intellectual part – above it” (Schwanitz, 2001). According to Schwanitz (2001), IQ is defined by presenting different tasks for a person: to sort conceptions, to finish mathematical lines, to layout geometric figures, to learn lists of words and etc. The one who gets 130 points is identified as very skilled, while the result above 140 indicates features of a genius. The Italian doctor, criminologist Cesare Lombroso in his own book “The Man of Genius” claimed that the geniality is directly linked with the insanity. However, in order to reduce the drama and to retract oneself from community of insanity, today much attention is given to special skills. Links between special skills and insanity were denied by empirical researches. According to Schwanitz, 2001, analysers of skills in America implemented the survey with especially skilled persons with IQ over 140 during which it was defined that the majority of apt people are lively, have a stable psychics and are healthier from the physical approach if compared to the average. The scientist Cyril Burt observed separately growing one cell twins and defined that they, even growing in different environments, had the same IQ when grown-ups. Results of the survey denied the version that the intellect is mostly dependable upon the influence of the social environment. “Whiz kid was one of the initiators for the empiric intellect measuring: Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin. He invented dactylography – the method of identifying criminals by fingerprints. Whn being at the age of two and a half, Galton read a book “Cobwebs to Catch Flies”; at the age of six he started gathering the systemic collection of insects and minerals, at the age of eight he attended classes intended for children of 14-15 years old; at the age of fifteen he was admitted as a medical student at Birmingham General Hospital. Counting under IQ standards for each type of intellect, IQ of Galton was 200” (Schwanitz, 2001). Catherine Cox, after getting acquainted with biography of Galton,

selected 300 famous men and women and asked three independent psychologists to assess their intellect. Therefore a table was formed and here is the first 10:

1. John Stuart Mill;
2. Goethe;
3. Leibniz;
4. Grotius;
5. Macaulay;
6. Bentham;
7. Pascal;
8. Schelling;
9. Haller;
10. Coleridge.

John Stuart Mill is well known, because at the age of three he was reading Aesop's Fables in original language; later on, he read Herodotus, Luciano, Isocrates. At the age of seven he read first dialogues by Platoon and started studies of Arithmetic with under supervision of a father. At the age of eight he started teaching junior brothers and sisters the Latin language therefore reading Vergilius, Livius, Ovidius, Cicerone, Horacio.

According to Myers, 2008, a scientist Charles Spearman was convinced that the general intellect, names as g factor, is the base of other concrete intellect factors as our conscious behaviour depends on the general factor – starting from sailing the sea, finishing with the excellent performance at school. Also it was noted that for those the assessment of one factor, e.g. the verbal intellect, is high, assessments of skills, attributed to other factors, e.g. spatial and reasoning skills, are higher than average. A scientist Thurstone offered to divide intellect into 7 factors: language perception, spatial skills, speed of perception, mathematical skills, inductive thinking and memory. A conclusion was made that there are some other facts, proving the existence of g factor.