

RORSCHACH

INKBLOT TEST

Rorschach Inkblot Test

- is a *psychological test* in which subjects' perceptions of inkblots are recorded and then analyzed using psychological interpretation, complex scientifically derived algorithms, or both. Some psychologists use this test to examine a person's personality characteristics and emotional functioning. It has been employed to detect an underlying thought disorder, especially in cases where patients are reluctant to describe their thinking processes openly.

Purpose

- The general goal of the test is to provide data about cognition and personality variables such as motivations, response tendencies, cognitive operations, affectivity, and personal/interpersonal perceptions. The underlying assumption is that an individual will class external stimuli based on person-specific perceptual sets, and including needs, base motives, conflicts, and that this clustering process is representative of the process used in real-life situations

Who is Hermann Rorschach



- He was a Swiss psychiatrist whose interest included art and psychoanalysis particularly the work of Carl Jung. In 1913, he published papers on how analysis of patients' artwork could provide insights to personality. He died of peritonitis on 1922 at the age of 38.

History and Background

- Using interpretation of "ambiguous designs" to assess an individual's personality is an idea that goes back to Leonardo da Vinci and Botticelli. Interpretation of inkblots was central to a game from the late 19th century.
- ***Psychodiagnostics*** – 1921
 - 28 case studies for normal subjects (well, undiagnosed)
 - and case of people with various psychiatric diagnoses (neurosis, psychosis, and manic-depressive illness)

Inkblot Cards

- Rorschach consists of ten (10) *bilaterally symmetrical* (mirrored image) inkblots printed in separate cards.
 - Five (5) *achromatic inkblots* or without color/black and white.
 - Two (2) inkblots are in *black, red, and white*.
 - the remaining three (3) inkblots are *multicolored*.

Administration

- **Free-association Phase**
 - testtaker is instructed to tell what is on each of the cards
 - “*What might this be?*”
- **Inquiry Phase**
 - examiner attempts to determine what feature of the inkblot played a role in formulating the testtaker’s *percept* (perception of an image).

- **Testing the Limits**

- enables the examiner to restructure the situation by asking specific questions that provide additional information concerning the personality functioning.
- to identify any confusion or misunderstanding concerning the task
- to aid the examiner in determining if the testtaker is able to refocus percepts given a new frame of reference
- to see if a testtaker made anxious by ambiguous nature of the task is better able to perform given this added structure.

Features and Categories

- Location
 - part of the inkblot that was utilized in forming the percept
- Determinants
 - the qualities of the inkblot that determine what the individual perceives
- Content
 - content category of the response

- Popularity

- refers to the frequency with which a certain response has been found to correspond with a particular inkblot or section of an inkblot

- Form

- the form of the response is how accurately the individual's perception matches or fits the corresponding part of the inkblot. Form level may be evaluated as being adequate or inadequate or as good or poor.

Exner's scoring system

- **Rorschach Comprehensive System (RCS)**
 - developed by **Dr. John E. Exner** in 1960's.
 - In 1969, Exner published *The Rorschach Systems*, a concise description of what would be later called "the Exner system". He later published a study in multiple volumes called *The Rorschach: A Comprehensive system*, the most accepted full description of his system.

Popularity of Rorschach as a psychological test

- In the 1960's, the Rorschach was the most widely used projective test. In a national survey in the U.S., the Rorschach was ranked eighth among psychological tests used in outpatient mental health facilities. It is the second most widely used test by members of the Society for Personality Assessment, and it is requested by psychiatrists in 25% of forensic assessment cases, usually in a battery of tests that often include the MMPI-2 and the MCMI-III. In surveys, the use of Rorschach ranges from a low of 20% by correctional psychologists to a high of 80% by clinical psychologists engaged in assessment services, and 80% of psychology graduate programs surveyed teach it.

- The Rorschach test is used almost exclusively by psychologists. In a survey done in the year 2000, 20% of correctional psychologists used the Rorschach while 80% used the MMPI. Forensic psychologists use the Rorschach 36% of the time. In custody cases, 23% of psychologists use the Rorschach to examine a child. Another survey found that 124 out of 161 (77%) of clinical psychologists engaging in assessment services utilize the Rorschach, and 80% of psychology graduate programs teach its use. Another study found that its use by clinical psychologists was only 43%, while it was used less than 24% of the time by school psychologists.