

important factor: the twin individual is psychologically formed in a life of couple. The psychology of the twin as an individual is a function of the psychology of the twin pair. The characteristics of twins are mainly due to the couple effects.

Twin peculiarities have for a long time been ignored. On the one hand, psychology ignored the couple reality (it was a "one-body" psychology), and on the other, the twin method classically postulated that twins are not atypical and may therefore be used as a test for the general population. As a matter of fact, twin psychology opens a new way to science. The twin situation may serve as a paradigm for the general study of the couple effect, namely, for the objective analysis of personality as a consequence of the relations between self and others. For certain traits of personality, it is already known that MZ twins brought-up together are significantly less similar than MZ twins brought-up apart. In fact, couple effects may mask or considerably reduce genetic factors.

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## THE PROCESS OF IDENTITY IN TWINS

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Abstract not received.

## WITHIN-PAIR RELATIONS IN MZ AND DZ FEMALE TWINS

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## THE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OF TWINS

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Although several studies have established that twins tend to be delayed in language acquisition, it is still not clear whether the delay is greater in some aspects of language development than in others, whether it affects both MZ and DZ twins and whether twins considered as individuals are subject to the same environmental and social class influences on language development as singletons.

The present paper presents a brief review of earlier work, and summarises a study comparing the psycholinguistic skills of 200 four-year-old twins, all aged 48 months, and 100 singletons of the same age. All the children were assessed on a battery of verbal and nonverbal tests, including the Illinois Test of Psycholinguistic Abilities. Main results were as follows:

- (1) Twins were on average six-months retarded in language age compared to singletons.
- (2) MZ and DZ twins were equally retarded.
- (3) All aspects of language appeared to be affected.
- (4) Intraclass correlations were significantly higher for MZ than for DZ pairs.
- (5) The contribution of genetic factors appeared to be higher for visual-motor than for auditory-vocal channels, the latter being strongly environmental in origin.
- (6) The language retardation of twins relative to singletons was much more marked in middle class than in working class twins.

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