

# Theories of learning

## chapter 4 – edward thorndike



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Annoying State of Affairs Condition organism actively avoids or abandons Anthropomorphizing Attributing human characteristics to non

human organisms ON THEORIES OF LEARNING CHAPTER 4 - EDWARD

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Now Associative shifting Response is carried from one set of stimulating condition to another by adding and subtracting stimulus.

Based on Principle of Contiguity Belongingness Material is learned more readily when it is structured in certain ways. Confirming Reaction Reaction

stimulated when a reaction produces a satisfying state of

affairs Connectionism Learning involving the strengthening of connections between stimulating conditions and responses to them Formal

discipline Specific training can strengthen a specific faculty

Example, practicing being friendly would strengthen the friendless

faculty Identical elements theory of transfer It is a theory that the likelihood of something learned in one situation being applied in a different situation is

determined by the number of common elements in the two

situations Incremental learning Learning that occurs a little bit at a time rather

than all at once Law of disuse It states that the strength of her connection

diminishes when the connection is not used Law of effect This law states that the strength of the connection is influenced by the consequences of a

response Law of exercise It states that the strength of the connection is

determined by how often the connection is used Law of readiness It states

that when an organism is ready to act, it is satisfying for it to do so and

annoying for it to not do so. Forced action is also annoying. Law of use This

states that the strength of connection increases with its use Morgan Conwy

Lloyd He is an early comparative psychologist who attempted to be objective

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in his descriptions of animal behavior by carefully avoiding anthropomorphizing

Principle of polarity The observation that learning materials is most easily performed in the same direction in which it was originally learned

Response by analogy Response to an unfamiliar situation is determined by its degree of similarity to a familiar situation

Satisfying State of Affairs A condition of an organism seeks out and attempts to preserve

Trial and error learning The trying of different responses in a problem solving situation until a response that solves the problems found

Washburn, Margaret Floy The first woman to earn a PhD in Psychology she wrote about Consciousness in non-human animals

Morgan's Canon Rule that animal researchers should never explain animal behavior as resulting from a higher mental process if that behavior could be explained by a lower process such as Instinct habit or Association

Multiple response Prerequisite to trial and error learning

Pre potency of elements Different aspects of the environment evoke different responses

Principle of parsimony To sing the simpler

Fury between two equally effective theories

Romanes, George John he is an early comparative psychologist, anthropomorphizing

Sets or attitudes

Temporary conditions like food fatigue or emotion that determines what will be annoying or pleasurable to a given organism

Spread of effect Reinforcement not only strengthens the response that produced it also strengthens neighboring responses

Strength of connection Equated with response probability

Transfer of training When something learned in one situation is supplied in another situation