

B.f skinner's learning theory (final)



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What theories did B. F Skinner reject? rejected implicit " S-O-R" psychology of Hull and classical behaviorists. " S-C-R" psychology of Tolman Why did Skinner reject Hull? it had no appeals to implicit unobservable physiological responses inside the organism, or to underlying neural connections in organism

ONB. F SKINNER' S LEARNING THEORY (FINAL) SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU FOR ONLY \$13. 90/PAGE Order Now Why did Skinner reject Tolman? no appeals to intervening cognitive phenomena or mental states What theory did Skinner accept: only observable " S" and " R" events, more so than any other behaviorist " empty organism" view

Skinner vs. Thorndike (1) Skinner assumes no neural model or brain states explaining S-R connections

(2) Skinner does NOT believe reinforcement strengthens an S-R connection - responses are not caused by stimuli, but rather are selected and produced for their reinforcing consequences

Skinner's operant conditioning goal Cumulative record a learning curve plotting cumulative number of responses against time (so it can only go up or stay flat) - slope is " response rate", the main Skinnerian dependent variable Reinforcement increases rate of responding:

Positive = delivering a stimulus the animal " want" (e. g. food)

Negative = taking away a stimulus the animal " doesn't want" (e. g. shock) Punishment decreases rate of responding;

positive = delivering a stimulus the animal " doesn't want" (e. g., shock)

Negative = taking away a stimulus the animal " wants" (e. g., parental attention in " time-out" procedure)

Response molar: an " operant" is a class of behaviors which include any response that is controlled by the reinforcement (i. e., any response that brings about a given consequence)

Stimulus event correlated with the production of a response ; event is occasion for, not

cause of, response Stimulus control discriminative stimulus SD indicates response will be reinforced; S delta is the stimulus indicating the response will NOT be reinforced Conditioned reinforcement (secondary reinforcement for Hull) a stimulus associated with reinforcement eventually becomes reinforcing itself, works like higher order conditioning must be backed up with primary reinforcement or extinction will result generalized reinforcers a stimulus associated with many primary reinforcers, not tied to any particular motivational state (ex. money, social approval) Chaining all SD are conditioning are reinforcers because responding in their presence always leads to reinforcement Shaping method for producing new responses in an animal, consisting of differential reinforcement of successive approximations to a desired response using shaping techniques Schedules of reinforcement partial reinforcement effect says that response is stronger when animal is NOT reinforced EVERY trial, measuring the strength of the response by its resistance to extinction Motivation no "drive-reduction" or other theoretical entity is hypothesized - there is just an empirical observation that food-deprived rats respond at a higher rate for food reinforcement extinction not necessarily the disappearance of a response, but rather a return to the response's "operant level" (the rate at which the response appears without any reinforcement) spontaneous recovery: recognized as an empirical phenomenon without much explanation of its mechanism generalization when a stimulus complex sets the occasion for a response, the response also occurs when the animal encounters stimulus inhibition the unobserved theoretical entity/intervening variable employed by Pavlov and Hull plays no role for Skinner