

# Chapter 11: Behaviorism (1892-1956)

## Glossary

### *New Directions in Animal Psychology*

**Bete Noire**- An anathema; someone or something which is particularly disliked or avoided; an object of aversion, the bane of one's existence.

**Conditional Response** - A new or modified response elicited by a stimulus after conditioning. Also called *conditioned reflex*.

**Connectionism** - movement in cognitive science which hopes to explain human intellectual abilities using artificial neural networks.

**Discriminative Consciousness**- One of Yerke's criterion of consciousness. Indicated by the ability to discriminate one stimulus from another.

**Fait Accompli**- Irreversible or performed without going through standard procedure

**Intelligent Consciousness**- One of Yerke's criterion of consciousness. Indicated by learning.

**Instrumental Conditioning** - operant conditioning that pairs a response with a reinforcement in discrete trials; reinforcement occurs only after the response is given.

**Psychological Bulletin**-Bimonthly peer-reviewed academic journal that publishes evaluative and integrative research reviews and interpretations of issues in psychology, including both qualitative (narrative) and/or quantitative (meta-analytic) aspects

**Rational Consciousness**- One of Yerke's criterion of consciousness. Indicated by the initiation of behavior rather than reflex response.

**Reflexology**- The study of reflex responses, especially as they affect behavior.

### *The Rise of Behaviorism*

**Anthropocentric** - having the mindset that human beings are the most important elements in existence and that everything revolves around them; in particular, they are considered more important than God or animals

**Behaviorism** - the psychological theory that conditioning can be used to explain the behavior of both animals and humans, with no reference to thoughts and feelings; this theory suggests that the altering of behavioral patterns should best treat psychological disorders

**Intervening Variables**: Events believed to occur between environmental and behavioral events. Although intervening variables cannot be observed directly, they are thought to be causally related to behavior. Tolman's cognitive map is an example of an intervening variable.

**Manifesto** - a persuasive declaration of goals

**Radical Behaviourism** - Radical behaviorism has attracted attention since its inception. First, it proposes that all organismic action is determined and not free. However, there are deterministic elements in much of psychology. Second, it is considered to be "anti-theoretical," although this is a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of theory in a radically inductive scientific position, which rejects hypothetico-deductive method.

**Sine Qua Non** - something that is essential or absolutely necessary

**Utopia** - an imagined perfect place

**Zeitgeist** - the attitude that characterizes a certain historical period, based on the beliefs and ideas of the time

## *The Golden Age of Theory*

**Dependant Variable-** what you measure in the experiment and what is affected during the experiment

**Divergent Habit Family Hierarchy** - set of different responses or chains of different responses with the same starting point and the same goal response

**Dogmatism** - the tendency to present ideas as undeniably true without looking for evidence or other opinions

**Independent Variable** - the variable you have control over, what you can choose and manipulate.

**Intervening Variable** - a hypothetical internal state that is used to explain relationships between observed variables, such as independent and dependent variables, in empirical research.

**Logical Positivism**- theory of knowledge. Only statements verifiable either logically or empirically would be cognitively meaningful. Seeking to convert philosophy to this new scientific philosophy was aimed to prevent confusion rooted in unclear language and unverifiable claims

**Learning**- The process by which animals and humans adjusted to the environment, by which they were educated, and by which they might be changed in the interest of social control or therapy.

**Molar Behaviorism**- In psychology, behavior described in large response units rather than smaller ones.

**Molecular Behaviorism**-In psychology, behavior described in small response units rather than larger ones; a specific response.

**Motor Theory of Consciousness**- Argues that introspection of internal states such as emotions were the “back action” of behavior on awareness.

**Neorealism**- suggests there is no such thing as introspection because there are no mental objects to observe. In the neorealist view, introspection was only artificially close scrutiny of an objects in one's in which one reported the object's attributes in great detail.

**Observation terms**- The directly observable properties of nature

**Postulate** - something that is assumed to be true in order to support further reasoning, discussion, or belief

**Soidisant**- Natural Science

**Theoretical Terms**- Explanations in addition to descriptions of natural phenomena.

*After the Golden Age*

**r-g-s-g mechanism** (Fractional Anticipatory Goal Response) - proposed to handle a special type of error made by rats that had learned a maze

**Experimental Analysis of Behavior** - name given to school of psychology founded by B. F. Skinner, and based on his philosophy of radical behaviorism. A central principle was the inductive, data-drive examination of functional relations.

**Locus of Variables** - a place where independent variables act together to produce a behaviour.

**Logical Behaviorism** - A theory of mind that mental concepts can be explained in terms of behavioral concepts.

**Mediate** - to bring about

**Operant** - an item of behavior that is initially spontaneous, rather than a response to a prior stimulus, but whose consequences may reinforce or inhibit recurrence of that behavior

**Pure Stimulus Act** - a response that does not help an organism in getting closer to its goal, but instead acts as a stimulus for another response or other responses.

**Reflex** - an involuntary and nearly instantaneous movement in response to a stimulus.

**Respondent behavior** - is a behavioral process (or behavior) that happens in response to some stimuli, and is essential to an organism's survival. This behavior is characterized by involuntary action.

**Tact** - a type of verbal operant