

Paradigm	Decade ¹⁾	Theory	Key concepts
(Connectionism) ²⁾	1880 - 1900	Connectionism (Thorndike)	- learning is incremental strengthening of the S-R ³⁾ association
- S-R associations are strengthened through repetition			
- outcome of a S-R event can strengthen or weaken the connection			
- potential to learn leads to frustration if not satisfied			
Behaviorism	1900 - 1910	Classical conditioning (Pavlov)	- learning is a visible change in one's behavior
- learning is manifested in a natural reflex reaction on an associated environmental stimulus			
- emotional response can also be learned or conditioned			
1920 - 1930	Contiguity theory (Guthrie)	- behavior is formed by a series of movements which are learned through S-R associations	
- a close temporal relationship between S and R is necessary for learning to occur			
- learning occurs on first experienced instance of the stimulus			
- reinforcements (reward or punishment) do not influence the strength of this connection			

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Neo-behaviorism	1930 - 1940	Sign learning (Tolman)	- suggests studying behavior on the molar level (whole, purposeful, goal-directed behaviors)
- learning is acquisition of knowledge through meaningful behavior , not mechanical moves			
- rewards or punishments can only be used as motivators for performance, not learning			
- animals are not simple mechanisms, but intelligent organisms capable of cognitive processes			
Drive reduction theory (Hull)	- mathematical formulas attempting to explain behavior and the likelihood of its appearance		
- drive (a stimulus in form of a biological need) results in behavior in order to satisfy it			
- reinforced S-R learning through the reduction of a biological drive			
- cognitive factors need to be taken into account when explaining human learning			
1950 - 1960	Operant conditioning (Skinner)	- reinforced learning of new behaviors , not just shaping reflexes	
- different reinforcement intervals have different effect			
- complex behaviors are learned through more simple ones			

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Stimulus sampling theory (Estes)	- a statistical learning theory ; set of formulas and axioms		
- S-R association is learned in a single trial ; learning results in accumulated S-R associations			
- reinforcement has to do with the performance, not with learning			
- later included memory as a factor in his theory			

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Last update: **2023/06/19 15:49**

