Behaviorism

About behaviorism

Some of the oldest learning theories belong to the behaviorism as learning paradigm and date back from the beginning of the 20th century. The key component to this paradigm are **observable behaviors and their measuring**.

Behaviorists view **learning as a visible change in ones behavior**. Behaviorism assumes that the learner starts off as a clear state and simply responds to environmental stimuli. Those responses **can be shaped through positive and negative reinforcement** increasing or decreasing the probability of repeating the same behavior.

Among the below listed learning theories within behaviorist framework, connectionism presents an introduction to behaviorist learning and setting its frames, classical and operand conditioning present true behaviorist learning perspectives, and sign learning form a bridge from behaviorism to cognitivism which has replaced it in the second half of 20th century.

Learning theories:

- Connectionism (Edward Thorndike)
- Clasicall Conditioning (Ivan Pavlov)
- Operant Conditioning (Burrhus Skinner)
- Sign Learning (Edward Tolman)

Criticisms

Behaviorism today mostly **lost its influence** and let **cognitivism take its place** as the dominant paradigm. Critics of behaviorist learning usually argue that behaviorism **does not explain all kinds o learning** since it ignores inner mind activities. Behaviorism also neglects the fact that behavior also depends on learner's inner subjective representation of environment and learning history.

Bibliography

Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy: Behaviorism.

Classical Conditioning - Introduction to Classical Conditioning.

Read more

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Skinner, B. F. About Behaviorism. Paw Prints, 2008.

Baum, William M. Understanding behaviorism: science, behavior, and culture. Wiley-Blackwell, 1994.

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