

| | Behaviorism | Cognitivism | Humanism | Constructivism | Connectivism |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| Time line: | Since 1900s | Since 1960s | Since 1960s | Since 1990s | Since 2000s |
| What is learning: | Development of desired behavior | Acquisition of new knowledge and developing adequate mental constructions | A mean which should help learner in self-actualization and development of personal potentials | Construction of new knowledge | Process of network-forming |
| Control locus: | Environment | Learner | Learner | Learner | Mostly learner but also environment |
| Learner role: | Passive, simply responding to external stimuli | Active and central to the process, he learns objective knowledge from external world | Active and discovery | Active, constructing his representation of knowledge using preferred learning styles | Knowledge acquisition in form of establishing connections to other nodes |
| Learning process: | Support of desired or punishing undesired behavior | An active process of acquiring and processing new information using prior knowledge and experience | Active learning through experience | Construction of subjective representation of knowledge based on prior knowledge and experience | Learning can also reside outside a person (within a database or an organization) and is focused on establishing connections |
| Critics: | Ignores learner and his mental processes, depends exclusively on overt behavior | Views knowledge as objective and external to the learner | More psychologically then experimentally grounded approach based on assumptions of free will and a system of human values which are generally believed to be true, yet sometimes discredited through counterexamples | There is little evidence for some constructivist views, and some even contradict known findings | A relatively new and according to some not fully developed theory |
| Authors: | Ivan Pavlov, Burrhus Skinner, John Watson | John Sweller, Richard Mayer, David Ausubel | Carl Rogers, Abraham Maslow | John Dewey, Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, Philip Candy, Rosalind Driver | George Simens |

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