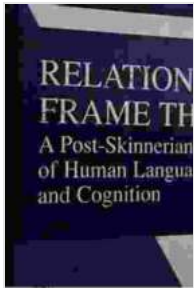


A Comprehensive Guide: Post-Skinnerian Account of Human Language and Cognition



Relational Frame Theory: A Post-Skinnerian Account of Human Language and Cognition by Steven C. Hayes

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
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Screen Reader : Supported
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The Post-Skinnerian perspective is a significant approach in understanding human language and cognition. It emerged as a critique of the traditional Skinnerian approach, which viewed behavior as solely shaped by environmental contingencies. Post-Skinnerians argue for the importance of cognitive factors, such as mental representations and rule-governed behavior, in explaining human behavior.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the Post-Skinnerian account of human language and cognition. We will explore the theoretical foundations of this perspective, discuss key proponents, and examine contemporary applications in various fields.

Theoretical Foundations

The Post-Skinnerian perspective is based on the following theoretical foundations:

- **Mental representations:** Post-Skinnerians believe that humans possess mental representations of the world, which guide their behavior. These representations can be linguistic (e.g., words, sentences) or non-linguistic (e.g., images, concepts).
- **Rule-governed behavior:** Post-Skinnerians argue that human behavior is not solely shaped by environmental contingencies but is also influenced by rules and internalized knowledge. These rules can be explicit (e.g., grammatical rules) or implicit (e.g., social norms).
- **Intentionality:** Post-Skinnerians emphasize the role of intentionality in human behavior. They view humans as purposive beings who act with goals and intentions.

Key Proponents

Several key proponents have contributed to the development of the Post-Skinnerian perspective:

- **Noam Chomsky:** Chomsky is considered the father of generative grammar, which revolutionized the study of human language. He argued that human language is based on an innate universal grammar that allows humans to produce an infinite number of novel sentences.
- **Jerome Bruner:** Bruner is a developmental psychologist who has studied the role of language and culture in cognitive development. He proposed the theory of scaffolding, which suggests that adults provide support and guidance to children as they learn new skills.

- **Lev Vygotsky:** Vygotsky was a Russian psychologist who emphasized the social nature of cognitive development. He believed that language and social interaction play a crucial role in the development of higher-order thinking skills.

Contemporary Applications

The Post-Skinnerian perspective has been applied to various fields, including:

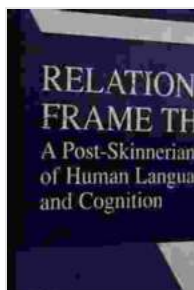
- **Language acquisition:** Post-Skinnerian theories have been used to explain how children acquire language. These theories emphasize the role of mental representations, rule-governed behavior, and social interaction in language development.
- **Cognitive development:** Post-Skinnerian approaches have been used to study cognitive development in children and adults. These studies have investigated the role of language, culture, and social interaction in the development of higher-order thinking skills.
- **Education:** Post-Skinnerian principles have been applied to educational practices. These principles emphasize the importance of providing students with meaningful learning experiences that promote the development of mental representations, rule-governed behavior, and intentionality.

The Post-Skinnerian perspective provides a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of human language and cognition. It emphasizes the importance of cognitive factors, such as mental representations, rule-governed behavior, and intentionality, in explaining human behavior. This

perspective has had a significant impact on various fields, including language acquisition, cognitive development, and education.

References

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