

PRINCIPLES OF REINFORCEMENT

- Consequences which give Rewards increase a behavior.
- Consequences which give Punishments decrease a behavior.
- Consequences which give neither Rewards nor Punishments extinguish a behavior.

Reinforcement Theory is a Functional Theory

- defined by their function
 - how they work

Rather than

- by their structure
 - how they look

Rules of Consequence

- When
- Do
- Get

Rules of Consequence

Step 1: **When** in some situation,

Step 2: **Do** some behavior,

Step 3: **Get** some consequence.

Class Activity

● Objectives are to:

- Alter negative speech
- Increase positive talk and responses

Class Activity

● Answer the following questions (when called upon) **in one or two sentences.**

- How are you today?
- What is your opinion of our President?
- How well are cars constructed today?
- Talk about your feeling toward atheists?
- What do you think of Father's Day?
- Describe your last visit to the doctor? (no details please)

Outcome

- When engaging in the classroom activity
- Respond in a positive manner
- Get rewarded

LIMITATIONS OF REINFORCEMENT

- It is difficult to identify rewards and punishments
 - discover the things they find most rewarding
- You must control all sources of reinforcement
 - Teachers often must compete with the student's peer group
 - Students often rather please peers than have a “reward”

LIMITATIONS OF REINFORCEMENT

- Internal changes can be difficult to create
 - If the Reward is not present, often the person will not show cooperation or good effort or attention or friendliness
- Punishing is difficult to do well
 - must be:
 - immediate (right now!)
 - intense (the biggest possible stick)
 - unavoidable (there is no escape)
 - consistent (every time)

References

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