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60-221
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Reprinted from

**JOURNAL OF THE
EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS
OF BEHAVIOR**

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 2

APRIL 1960

SUGGESTED FRENCH TRANSLATIONS OF EXPRESSIONS
IN THE FIELD OF OPERANT CONDITIONING

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(A word already accepted in French psychological usage is preceded by an asterisk. To facilitate translation and reading of foreign literature, the French equivalent of the form closest to the English term is used whenever acceptable. When French has no one-word equivalent, the English term is kept, as is usual in other scientific vocabularies. When a word is difficult to translate into French because it would sound, say, poetic or ridiculous in a scientific context, an abstract word or expression is used instead. English abbreviations are maintained so that experimental reports can be easily read in either language.)

A

aversive stimulus
avoidance behavior

stimulus aversif
comportement d'évitement
*Piéron—Vocabulaire de la Psychologie
PUF, 1951—does not give avoidance
training; évitement has been used by
Bélanger, Canad. J. Psychol., 1958, 12,
p. 171)*

avoidance response

conduite—*or* réponse—d'évitement

C

chained responses
chained schedule
compensatory rate
conditioned reinforcer

réponses en chaîne
programme en chaîne
débit compensatoire
*renforcement—*or* agent renforçant—
conditionnel [*or* conditionné]

conditioned stimulus
conditioned suppression

*stimulus conditionnel [*or* conditionné]
suppression conditionnelle [*or*
conditionnée]

conditioning
contingency
continuous reinforcement
control
cumulative curve

*conditionnement
contingence
renforcement continu
*contrôle
courbe cumulative

D

deprivation
deviation
differential rate reinforcement
differential reinforcement of
high rates
differential reinforcement of
low rates
differentiation
discrimination
discriminative stimulus

*déprivation
*déviation
*renforcement différentiel de débit
*renforcement différentiel des débits
élevés
renforcement différentiel des débits
faibles
*différentiation
*discrimination
stimulus discriminatif

E	
escape behavior	comportement d'échappement [<i>or</i> d'évasion]. <i>See comment on avoidance.</i>
escape response	conduite d'échappement [<i>or</i> d'évasion]
extinction	*extinction
F	
food magazine	magasin à nourriture
G	
generalization	*généralisation
gradient	gradient
I	
incidental reinforcement	renforcement fortuit
intermittent reinforcement	renforcement intermittent
interresponse time	intervalle inter-réponse
L	
lever	levier; barre
limited hold	hold temporaire [<i>or</i> limité]
M	
magazine	magasin
manipulandum	manipulateur
mediating behavior	comportement intercalaire
N	
negative reinforcer	renforcement négatif
O	
operant	operant (<i>The present participle of opérer—to operate—is opérant. The English spelling—without an accent—is here used to designate a technical term.</i>)
operant conditioning	conditionnement operant
over-all rate	débit général
P	
pause	pause
percentage reinforcement	pourcentage de renforcement
performance	*performance
pre-aversive stimulus	stimulus pré-aversif
probability of response	probabilité de réponse
probe	test sondage, sondage <i>or</i> coup de sonde (<i>test alone would suffice but is perhaps worth saving for the field of applied psychology.</i>)

process
programming

processus
programming
(*English present participles are commonly borrowed by French: cf. training, learning. Programming is preferable to a French neologism such as programmation.*)

punishment

1) agent punitif
2) punition [*or châtiment*]

R

rate of responding
record
recorder
reinforcement
reinforcer
respondent (adj.)
response

débit de réponse
*enregistrement
*enregistreur
*renforcement
agent renforçant
Pavlovien
*réponse

S

scallop (as in FI)

segment [de courbe] accéléré; *when repeated, segments accélérés successifs or réguliers.*

schedule (of reinforcement)
schedules:

programme (de renforcement)
programme: (*Probably preferable to schédule, which is not French.*)

alternative
chained
concurrent
conjunctive
fixed-interval
fixed-ratio
interlocking
intermittent
interpolated
mixed
multiple
tandem
variable interval
variable ratio

alternatif
en chaine
simultané
conjunctif
à intervalle constant
à proportions constantes
entrecroisé
intermittent
interpolé
mêlangé
multiple
tandem
à intervalle variable
à proportions variables

spontaneous recovery
stimulus
strength of response
superstitious behavior

restauration spontanée
*stimulus
potentiel de réponse
conduite superstitieuse

T

time out

time out

U

unconditioned stimulus

*stimulus inconditionnel [*or* inconditionné]**W**

warm-up

*mise en train

A REPRINT FROM
Journal of the
Experimental Analysis of Behavior
SENT BY THE AUTHOR

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