

## ABSTRACT

### TRANSFORMATION OF FUNCTIONS: RELATIONAL FRAMES OF MORE-THAN AND LESS-THAN AND THE IMPLICIT RELATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Language is worth studying for social, educational, and pragmatic reasons. Relational Frame Theory (RFT) is one account of human language that has been gaining support from behavior analytic studies. Some primary assertions of RFT are that we learn to respond relationally to arbitrary verbal stimuli (such as words) and then transform their function (such as the denotations and connotations of words) to other stimuli depending on their relationship. In the current study, subjects were taught more-than/less-than relationships among nonsense words. After learning that one of the nonsense words corresponded to a mood, subjects were expected to derive relationships among the various stimuli and identify which stimuli reflected more intense moods. When exposed to a test that measures response times for indicating whether a stimulus is similar or opposite to a given mood, subjects who derived the more-than/less-than relationships were expected to complete the task more slowly when required to incorrectly respond (“inconsistent task”) than when required to correctly respond (“consistent task”). Results and implications of the study are discussed.

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