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The Hue Discrimination Learning in the Pigeon

Satoko Ohinata

This experiment was undertaken to determine whether the transfer of learning was related to the difference of wave lengths presented at the preceding problem and the succeeding one.

The entire experiment was divided into two parts, Exp. A and B, each of which comprised two groups of experiments, A₁ and A₂ in Exp. A and B₁ and B₂ in Exp. B. The experiment was conducted with the Skinner-Box and with 14 pigeons. Each unit-experiment contained 3 problems, 1st, 2nd and 3rd, given in this order. Stimulus materials assigned to each group were as follows:

Problem		1st.		2nd.		3rd.	
		+	-	+	-	+	-
A	A ₁	$\frac{m''}{420}$	$\frac{m''}{450}$	$\frac{m''}{450}$	$\frac{m''}{460}$	$\frac{m''}{460}$	$\frac{m''}{490}$
	A ₂	490—460		460—450		450—420	
B	B ₁	460—460		460—480		480—420	
	B ₂	530—480		480—460		460—550	

The luminance ratio of the two stimuli in the each pair was 2:1, the lighter-darker relation was alternated every day. The stimuli were presented successively in random order, each for 12 seconds through filters. The number of reinforcements per day was 20 and the criterion of learning was set at 100 percent correct response.

Results: Errors made in the preceding problem were compared with those made in the succeeding problems and the following facts were found.

1. Transfer of learning was elicited under the condition which the difference of wave lengths in the preceding problem was smaller than the difference of wave lengths in the succeeding problem, except one case. (3rd in B₁) These cases are 3rd in A₁, 3rd in A₂ and 2nd in B₁.
2. Transfer of learning was not elicited under the condition which the difference of wave lengths in the preceding problem was larger than the difference of wave lengths in the succeeding problem. These cases are 2nd in A₁, 2nd in A₂ and 2nd, 3rd in B₂.