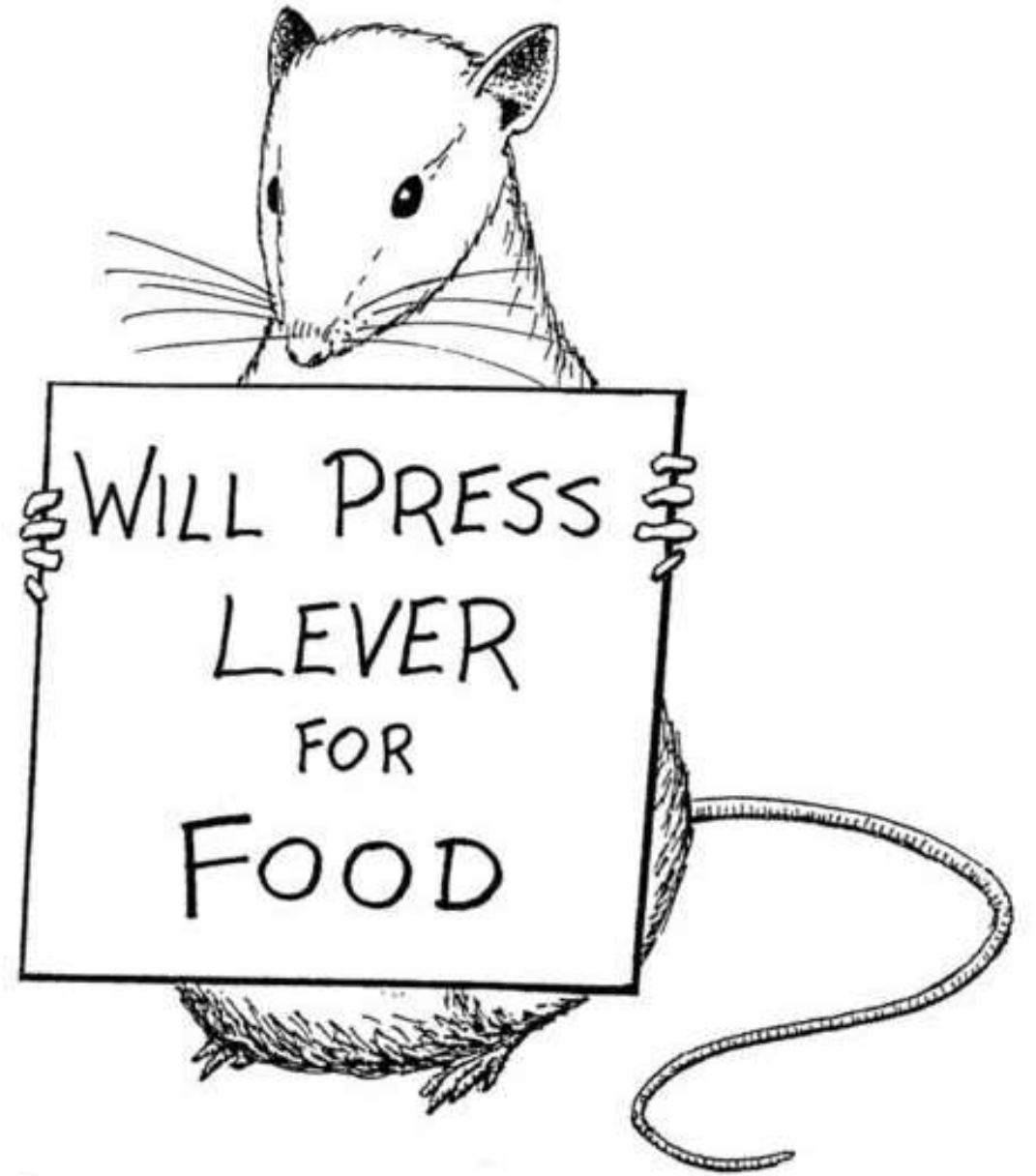


Theories of Language Acquisition

Behaviorist Theory



Behaviorist Theory



B.F. Skinner

Behaviorist Theory



Language is acquired through principles of conditioning, including association, imitation, and reinforcement.

Behaviorist Theory



According to this view, children learn words by associating sounds with objects, actions, and events.

Behaviorist Theory



The theory can be summed up as: LISTEN, IMITATE, RECEIVE A REWARD, REPEAT FOR RECALL.

Behaviorist Theory



Criticisms:

- Learning cannot account for the rapid rate at which children acquire language.

Behaviorist Theory



Criticisms:

There can be an infinite number of sentences in a language. All these sentences cannot be learned by imitation.

Behaviorist Theory



Criticisms:

Children make errors, such as overregularizing verbs.

Behaviorist Theory



Criticisms:

Children acquire language skills even though adults do not consistently correct their syntax.

Behaviorist Theory



The theory can be summed up as: LISTEN, IMITATE, RECEIVE A REWARD, REPEAT FOR RECALL.

Nativist Theory



Noam Chomsky

Nativist Theory



Chomsky suggests
that language is an
innate faculty.

Nativist Theory



Chomsky claims that language acquisition is greatly dependent upon a linguistic faculty which he terms *Language Acquisition Device* (LAD), an innate mechanism or process that allows children to develop language skills or **Universal Grammar**, around which all languages are built.

Nativist Theory



Based on the assumption, there are “core” and “language specific” rules in all languages.

Nativist Theory



When a learner comes across “language specific” he will tend to refer to his first language (L1). Thus, if a learner discovers that a second language (L2) rule is not in accordance with the universal rule, he will attempt to interpret that rule by means of the equivalent rule in his L1.

Interactionist Theory



Interactionists argue
that language
development is both
biological and social.

Interactionist Theory



They also argue that language learning is influenced by the desire of children to communicate with others.

Interactionist Theory



They believe that "children are born with a powerful brain that matures slowly and predisposes them to acquire new understandings that they are motivated to share with others"

(Bates,1993;Tomasello,1995, as cited in shaffer,et al.,2002,p.362).

Interactionist Theory



They also argue that language learning is influenced by the desire of children to communicate with others.

