

# Investigation of Identical Function Classes between Mands That Require Materials and Mands That Require Praise

ARAI Shota

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

**Keywords:** mands, function class

The purpose of this study is to compare mands that require materials and solutions (“material” mands) with mands that require approval and praise (“approval” mands), while also taking a look at behavior exhibiting the need for help, from the perspective of mands in general. In order to see if two mands can be grouped together as being in the same functional class, the present research includes a control group and an experimental group that have both been subjected to pre- and post-interventions. The independent variable is the intervention implemented in the current research with the control group being administered non-contingent reinforcements and with the experimental group being administered contingent reinforcements. The dependent variable is the change in the response rate for “approval” mands. Both the control group and the experimental group were assigned five male and five female participants each, and the response rates for “approval” mands were compared for both the pre- and post-interventions. In the situation whereby “approval” mands were introduced, participants received approval from three people (“known persons,” “unknown, same gender,” and “unknown, different gender”). The results show that there was an increase in response rates for “approval” mands for the experimental group. At the same time, response rates for “approval” mands also increased when the subjects received approval from a “known person.” These results reveal that there is the possibility that the two mands may be of the same functional class. Furthermore, it can be thought that the discriminative stimulus (“known person”) is a factor that may have caused the two mands to be of the same functional class.