

An Experiment into the Transfer of Verbal Behavior

– From mand to tact and tacting private events –

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The purpose of this study was to examine whether the functions of verbal behavior could transfer from mand to tact and whether participants become able to use tact in private events after mand training. In the experiment, the participants, who were undergraduate students, chose nonsense syllables for tact and mand. First, some games were used to make the participants feel certain emotions, along with the holding of private events, and the participants were trained to mand with the nonsense syllables in the games. Then, the effect of training under testing conditions was tested. From the results, it could be seen that, the mand training affected tact. The participants used tact for private events with nonsense syllables in the test conditions. This study implies that the functions of verbal behavior can transfer from mand to tact, and that participants became able to tact private events after mand training. However, some problems were found. Future research should be able to provide some answers for the problems in establishing the validity of this study and to for using this training program for training verbal behavior.