

DEP 4053

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DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY: THEORIES, METHODS, & MAJOR ISSUES OF DEVELOPMENT

Goals of Developmental Psychologists

- To examine the changes in behavior and abilities during development, and to understand/explain why these changes occur.

Development Depends on Three Factors

- *Developmental potentials* provided by the child's *genes*.
- The child's *developmental history*.
- *Current environmental conditions*
 - These 3 factors interact to account for development.

Normality or Norms Means Typical or Average

- All norms are flexible.
- Normality is actually a range of acceptable behaviors/characteristics.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT EARLY THEORIES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- **John Locke (1632-1704):** Empiricism - all knowledge comes from experience ("Tabula Rasa").
 - rewards, punishments, & learning
- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778):** Nativism - innate processes driving force behind development.
 - inherited potential of children
 - normative patterns of development
- **Charles Darwin (1809-1882):** competition for survival, natural selection, evolutionary value of behaviors (ethology)
 - interaction of genes and environment

PIONEERS OF DEV PSYCHOLOGY

- **G. Stanley Hall (1844-1924):** Father of child Psychology

- **Sigmund Freud (1856-1939):**
 - Psychoanalytic view - stage theorist
 - psychosexual model - drive theory
 - experience during each stage influences development (fixation)

- **Erik Erikson (1902-1994):**
 - extension of Freud's theory
 - psychosocial stages.

PIONEERS OF DEV PSYCHOLOGY

- **John B. Watson (1878-1958):**
 - founder of behaviorism
 - Social Learning Theory (Bandura)

- **Jean Piaget (1896-1980):**
 - **Cognitive development**
 - stage theorist - qualitative differences

- **John Bowlby (1908-1990):**
 - Adaptational Theory

RESEARCH METHODS FOR STUDYING DEVELOPMENT

- **THEORIES**
 - **Role of Theories:**
 - organize existing knowledge
 - explain behavior/observations
 - generate & guide research

RESEARCH METHODS FOR STUDYING DEVELOPMENT

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS

- A type of research in which the investigator varies some factors (IVs) and keeps others constant.

- **Independent variable**

- **Dependent variable**

- **Internal Validity**

- **External Validity**

- **Random Assignment vs. Random Selection or Sampling**

- **Advantages & Disadvantages of Experiments**

RESEARCH METHODS FOR STUDYING DEVELOPMENT

➤ NONEXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

- Correlational Design

- Natural Experiment or Quasi Design

- Naturalistic Observation

- Survey Research

NONEXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH METHODS

- Correlational Design: examine the relationship between variables

- Correlation coefficient
 - can range from _____

 - Number & sign:

- Advantages:

- Disadvantages:

MAJOR ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

➤ **NATURE VS. NURTURE:**

- Interactionist perspective

➤ **EARLY EXPERIENCES VS. CURRENT EXPERIENCES**

➤ **NORMATIVE VS. IDEOGRAPHIC**

➤ **STAGES VS. GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Quantitative (continuous) change (environmentalist view)

- Qualitative (discontinuous) changes: Freud, Erikson & Piaget