

Autumn Nash

Dr. Amy Flavin

PSY 321 Essay Wk #9

25 February 2023

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, the Zeitgeist in American psychology grew from behaviorism and animal psychology through the works of various psychologists, led by John B. Watson. There was no longer introspection, as seen in the past as observing one's mental processes. Also the value of mental elements or the need for psychology to be a pure science had decreased. But instead behaviorism emerged as studying one's behaviors which led to understanding stimulus and responses. This rejected and denied all previous claims of mentalistic terms and consciousness because it could not be touched, seen, tasted, moved or smelled, so it was irrelevant and had no proof (Schultz, D &P., page 192). Therefore all unconscious behaviors were not studied by Watson. Through the studies of animal psychology, functional psychology and objectivism and mechanism, Watson was able to lead this change. He proved that humans and animals had similar mental processes through examples like Clever Hans. He used objectivism and mechanism to show how machines can run everything. And he used functional psychology to study how species adapt to their environment.