

Lesson 35: Fragmentary Sources of Strength (OA)



This lesson defines and provides examples of fragmentary sources of strength.

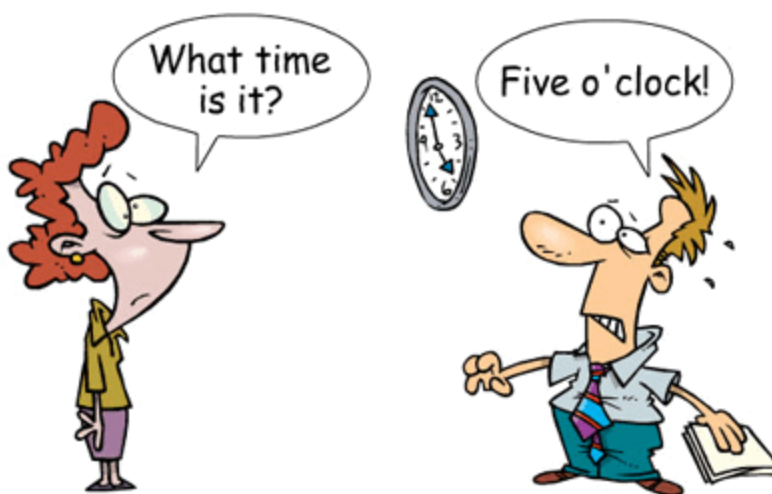
- ≡ Multiple Controlling Variables
- ≡ Definition of Fragmentary Sources of Strength
- ≡ Fragmentary Sources of Strength and Alliteration
- ≡ More Fragmentary Sources of Strength and Alliteration
- ≡ Fragmentary Sources of Strength and Literature
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- 🔍 Knowledge Check
- ≡ Review

Multiple Controlling Variables



00:11

In all of the examples of multiple controlling variables we have examined so far, each of the controlling variables affected the entire response form. This, however, need not always be the case.



Definition of Fragmentary Sources of Strength



00:19

Sometimes one variable will determine only part of the subsequent response. When this occurs, that variable is called a **fragmentary source of strength**. Features irrelevant to the classification of fragmentary sources of strength include which types of elementary verbal relationships are involved and the response topography.

Fragmentary Source of Strength

A type of stimulus control with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- | | |
|---|--|
| • | The response form is multiply controlled |
| • | At least one of the controlling variables strengthens only one part of the response form |

DEFINING FEATURES	IRRELEVANT FEATURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which types of elementary verbal relationships are involved• The response topography	

Fragmentary Sources of Strength and Alliteration



00:19

A common example of this phenomenon is alliteration in poetry: “The faint fresh flame of the young year flushes from leaf to flower and flower to fruit.” In this line, there is presumably a thematic controlling variable that strengthens such responses as “new,” “beginning,” “fresh,” etc.

The faint ^{new}beginning fresh flame
of the young year flushes
from leaf to flower
and flower to fruit

From *Chorus* by Algernon Charles Swinburne

Fragmentary Source of Strength

A type of stimulus control with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- The response form is multiply controlled
- At least one of the controlling variables strengthens only one part of the response form

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- Which types of elementary verbal relationships are involved
- The response topography

More Fragmentary Sources of Strength and Alliteration



00:19

Having said “faint” provides a formal (echoic) additional source of strength for the first part of the response “fresh,” but exerts no control over the other response forms, “new” and “beginning.” Therefore, the response “fresh” is somewhat more likely to occur because of multiple sources of strength.

~~new~~
~~beginning~~
The faint fresh flame
of the young year flushes
from leaf to flower
and flower to fruit

Fragmentary Source of Strength

A type of stimulus control with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES**IRRELEVANT FEATURES**

- The response form is multiply controlled
- At least one of the controlling variables strengthens only one part of the response form

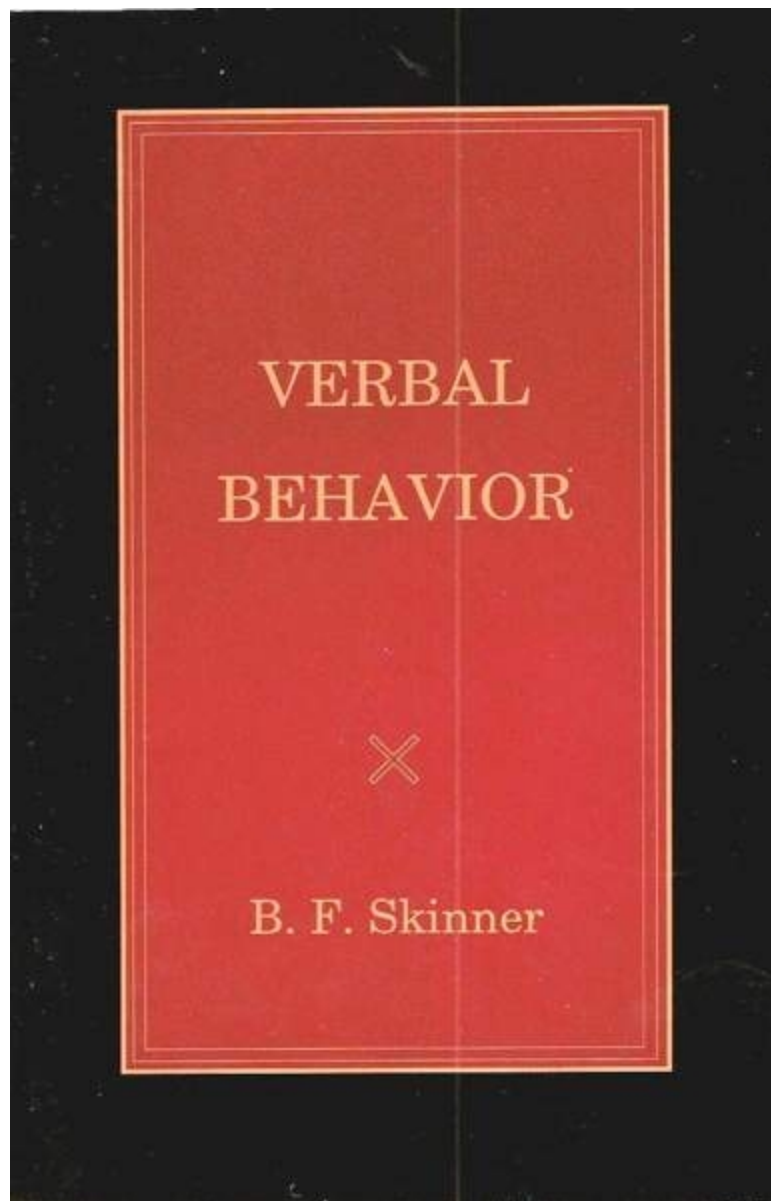
DEFINING FEATURES**IRRELEVANT FEATURES**

- Which types of elementary verbal relationships are involved
- The response topography

Fragmentary Sources of Strength and Literature



A detailed treatment of the effects of multiple control as alliteration and other aspects of literature is presented in Chapter 9 of *Verbal Behavior*.



Fragmentary Source of Strength

A type of stimulus control with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

The response form is multiply controlled

-

-

At least one of the controlling variables strengthens only one part of the response form

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

-

Which types of elementary verbal relationships are involved

-

The response topography

Fragmentary Sources of Strength Non-Example



00:21

If the multiply determined response is completely affected by a formal source, then the strengthening is **NOT** fragmentary. If you say “no smoking” both because it would be currently reinforcing to you if someone nearby stopped smoking and also because you faintly heard someone say “no smoking,” the echoic source would not be considered fragmentary.

Fragmentary Source of Strength

A type of stimulus control with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES



The response form is multiply controlled



At least one of the controlling variables strengthens only one part of the response form

DEFINING FEATURES	IRRELEVANT FEATURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which types of elementary verbal relationships are involved• The response topography	

Knowledge Check

You will be presented a series of examples. For each example, you will classify the secondary source of control for a particular word or phrase as fragmentary or non-fragmentary.

Question

01/04

In the example below, the italicized word is multiply controlled. The main source is thematic. Classify the second source as either a fragmentary or non-fragmentary source.

Saying “vinyl is *final*.”

- ☐ Fragmentary
- ☐ Non-fragmentary

In the example below, the italicized phrase is multiply controlled. The main source is thematic. Classify the second source as either a fragmentary or non-fragmentary source.

Saying “make like a drum and *beat it.*”

- ☐ Fragmentary
- ☐ Non-fragmentary

In the example below, the italicized phrase is multiply controlled. The main source is thematic. Classify the second source as either a fragmentary or non-fragmentary source.

She sells sea shells by the *sea shore*.

- ☐ Fragmentary
- ☐ Non-fragmentary

In the example below, the italicized word is multiply controlled. The main source is thematic. Classify the second source as either a fragmentary or non-fragmentary source.

Saying “*stimulus*” while reading this partially completed sentence: “A response is elicited by a st_____.”

- ☐ Fragmentary
- ☐ Non-fragmentary

Review

☐

Fragmentary sources of strength is a type of stimulus control in which one variable determines only part of the subsequent response.

☐

Features **irrelevant** to the classification of fragmentary sources of strength include which types of elementary verbal relationships are involved and the response topography.

End of Lesson