

Lesson 15: Verbal Relationships with Thematic Control (OA)

VVB



The verbal relationships presented so far are all examples of formal control, with point-to-point correspondence between the controlling variable and the response. This lesson introduces the idea of verbal relationships with thematic control.

- ☰ Review of Formal Control
- ☰ Review of Thematic Control
- ☰ Formal Control Strengthens Single Response Form
- ☰ Review

Review of Formal Control



00:19

All of the elementary verbal relationships we have studied thus far—echoic behavior, copying a text, taking dictation, and textual behavior—are examples of **formal control**; that is, they are functional relationships in which there is point-to-point correspondence between the controlling stimulus and the evoked response.

Formal Control

When a controlling variable evokes a response and has the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES



There is point-to-point correspondence between the controlling variable and the response

DEFINING FEATURES**IRRELEVANT FEATURES**

●	Whether or not there is formal similarity between the controlling variable and the response
●	Formal characteristics of either the controlling variable or the response
●	Dynamic characteristics of either the controlling variable or the response

Review of Thematic Control



00:29

Not all elementary verbal relationships have such point-to-point correspondence. We learned previously that if there is no point-to-point correspondence between the stimulus and the response, then we call the type of controlling relationship **thematic**. What follows are the types of elementary verbal relationships that are examples of **thematic control**. They are thematic because in most cases the controlling variable strengthens several responses. This fact will become clearer as each of the elementary relationships involving thematic control is presented.

Thematic Control

When a controlling variable evokes a response and has the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES



There is **NO** point-to-point correspondence between the controlling variable and the response

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

●	Whether or not there is formal similarity between the controlling variable and the response
●	Formal characteristics of either the controlling variable or the response
●	Dynamic characteristics of either the controlling variable or the response

Formal Control Strengthens Single Response Form



00:11

In the relationships involving **formal control**, such as the ones we've examined thus far, each controlling variable strengthens only a single response form. This is not true for the relationships to be presented next.

Formal Control

When a controlling variable evokes a response and has the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES



There is point-to-point correspondence between the controlling variable and the response

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

●	Whether or not there is formal similarity between the controlling variable and the response
●	Formal characteristics of either the controlling variable or the response
●	Dynamic characteristics of either the controlling variable or the response

Review



Echoic behavior, copying a text, taking dictation, and textual behavior are all examples of **formal control** because for each functional relationship there is point-to-point correspondence between the controlling stimulus and the evoked response.



The elementary verbal relationships to be addressed next are examples of **thematic control** because there is no point-to-point correspondence between the controlling variable and the response. They are “thematic” because in most cases the controlling variable strengthens several responses.

End of Lesson