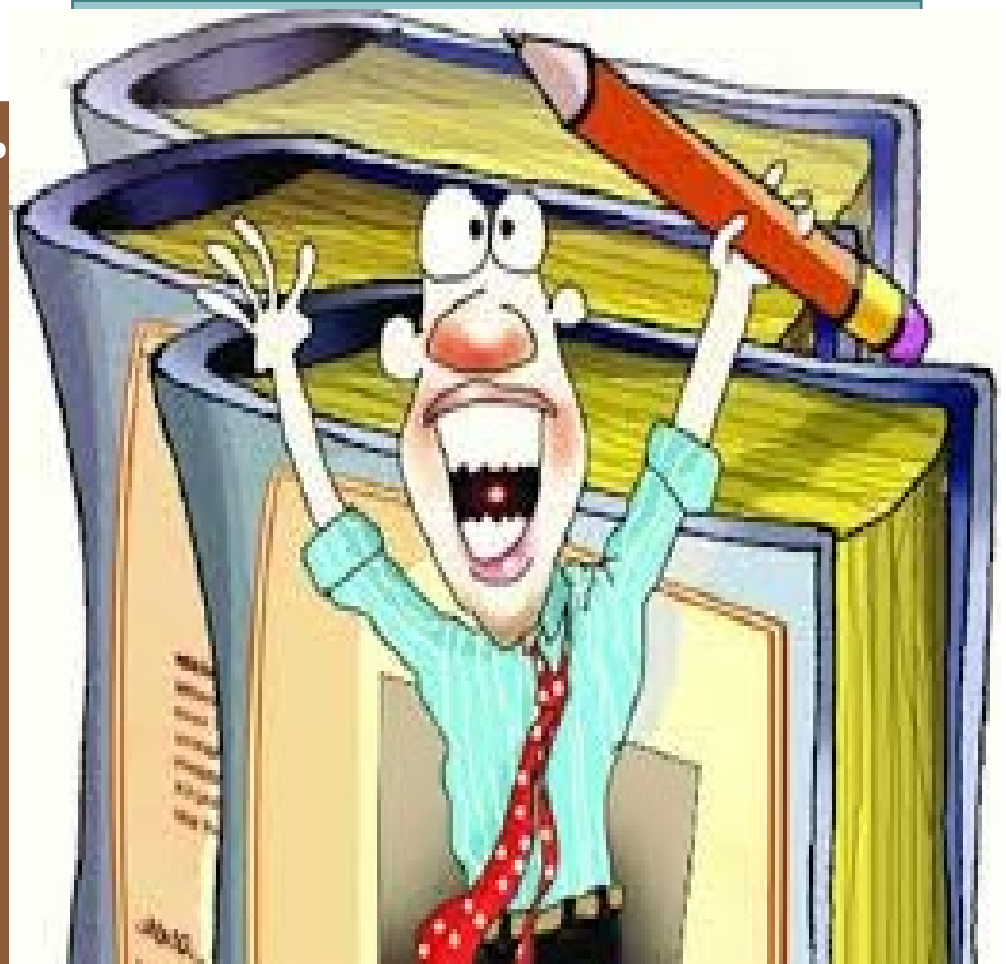


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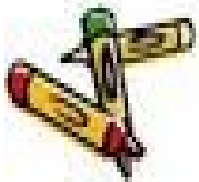
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Insight theory of learning

Wolfgang Kohler



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Insight theory of learning

- Gestalt Psychologist developed a new theory of learning popularly known as theory of insight.
- The word Gestalt in German language means 'whole'.
- This school believes that the whole is more important than the parts. So learning also takes place as a whole

Cont..

- The theory is associated with the name of Kohler who conducted a series of experiments on chimpanzees named Sultan.



Insight

- These experiments by Kohler show that animal must perceive the total situation and relationship among all relevant parts of the problem before insight can occur in solving the problem.
- The individual and his environment form a psychological field. The perception of the field and gradual restructuring of it is insight.

Cont..

- These experiments point out that insight follows a trail and error behaviour on the part of the animal.
- Once the animal learns to solve a problem by insight, there is every possibility of higher degree of transfer of similar problems.

Criterion of Learning by Insight:

- Learning by insight requires full comprehension of the situation as a whole.
- Insight is sudden.
- The goal must be quite and clear.
- Transfer of learning occurs as a result of insight. The principles learnt in one situation are applied to the other situation.

Cont..

- Suddenness of the solution is the hall mark of learning by insight i.e., the solution flashes suddenly to the learner.
- In Woodworth's opinion, insight is sometimes hind sight at others it is foresight.
- Previous experience is of assistance in insight.

Principles involved in insight learning

- 1. Law of figure ground
- 2. Law of pragnanz
- 3. Law of continuity
- 4. Law of similarity
- 5. Law of proximity

Criticism

- Every kind of learning for example, reading , writing, speaking etc., cannot be satisfactorily explained by the laws of gestalt.
- A pattern of dynamic relationship discovered in one situation may be applied to another. But what exists in common is not identical piecemeal elements but common pattern or relationship.



Thank you