Epistemology in Distance Education & E-learning

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BEHAVIORISM

- Brain is a black box.
- External stimuli provoke reaction.
- Behavior is observed.
- Reward/punishment method.
- Immediate feedback.
- Instructor's interaction is significant.

Learning Approaches
(Ally, 2008)

- Measurable learning objective.
- Well-structured and in-sequence content.
- Feedback for correction purposes.
- Reinforce reward/punishment method.
- Multiple-choice assessment.
- Yes/no answer test style.

""Learning is a change in observable behavior caused by external stimuli in the environment" (Ally, 2008, p. 19).

The theory focuses on quantitative measure of learner's learning process (Bates, 2009).

"Behaviorism stems from objectivism.

COGNITIVISM

- Learning is an internal process; a mental process & cognitive skills.
- Learning is an active process.
- Learning process involves collection of memories, per-existing & newly acquired ones.
- per-existing memories can intersect when connection exists.
- Critical thinking skills is the goal.

Learning Approaches
(Ally, 2008)

- A well-designed material to incite interest for the memory to interact & make connection.
- Due to limited memory duration, information is presented in increments.
- Accommodate student's different learning style.
- Visualization in the materials.
- Real-life case assignments.
- Metacognitive skills.

"See learning as an internal process that involves memory, thinking, reflection, abstraction, motivation, and metacognition" (Ally, 2008, p. 21).

Accomodating different learning and cognitive styles so that learners can choose the appropriate material for optimum learning process.

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CONSTRUCTIVISM

- Learning is an internal process but in a wider environment.
- Learning is a social process.
- Interaction and collaboration.
- Learner is an active participant.
- Learner's motivation is vital to the success of constructing knowledge.
- Learner constructs his/her own knowledge with the available information in the environment (knowledge is constructed, socially).
- Learner gives personal meaning to the information.

Learning Approaches
(Ally, 2008)

- Learners have the control, with some guidance, to construct knowledge during the learning process.
- Collaborative learning, such as group work, to facilitate social interactions.
- Interactive learning amongst learner, interface, content, support – instructor and expert, and context.

Constructivism signifies the importance of human's "consciousness, free will and social influences" (Bates, 2009, para. 1).

Knowledge is constructed "by assimilating information, relating it to our existing knowledge, and cognitively processing it" (Bates, 2009, para. 3).

"Learning is a constantly dynamic process" (Bates, 2009, para. 7).

CONNECTIVISM

- The digital age learning theory.
- Learning process digitally and online.
- Knowledge is out there (external network of immense and diverse information).
- Stay up to date with the information.
- Knowledge flows and changes.
- Learning and un-learning is part of the process.
- Learning is a process of obtaining, connecting all the information & determining its value, whether or not it is worth keeping.
- Data mining and analytic skills are more valuable skills to possess.

Learning Approaches
(Ally, 2008)

- Globally connected network learning process.
- Mobile learning for easy access from anywhere, anytime.
- A multi-channel system to deliver learning materials.
- Technology fluency.
- Exposure to multidisciplinary subjects in learning process.

"Is theory for the digital age, where individuals learn and work in a networked environment" (Ally, 2008, p. 34).

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).