



A.H. Buss: The Psychology of Aggression, Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York & London, 1961. p.2.

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There are two reasons for excluding the concept of intent from the definition of aggression. First, it implies teleology, a purposive act directed toward a future goal, and this view is inconsistent with the behavioral approach adopted in this book. Second, and more important, is the difficulty of applying this ~~xxx~~ term to behavioral events. Intent is a private event that may or may not be capable of verbalization, may or may not be accurately reflected in a verbal statement. One might be led to accept intent as an inference from the reinforcement history of the organism. If an aggressive response has been systematically reinforced by a specific consequence, such as flight of the victim, the recurrence of the aggressive response might be said to involve an "intent to cause flight." However, this kind of inference is superfluous in the analysis of behavior; it is more fruitful to examine directly the relation



between reinforcement history of an aggressive response and the immediate situation eliciting the response.

In summary, intent is both awkward and unnecessary in the analysis of aggressive behavior; rather, the crucial issue is the nature of the reinforcing consequences that affect the occurrence and strength of aggressive responses. In other words, what are the classes of reinforcers that affect aggressive behavior?

A.H. Buss: The Psychology of Aggression, Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York & London, 1961. p.12

The instrumental response of aggression and the emotional response of anger each occupy brief temporal intervals. The attack is made and is over; anger rises to a pitch and then subsides. Hostility is an attitudinal response that endures: an implicit verbal response involving negative feelings (ill will) and negative evaluations of people and events. The hostile response is neither instrumental nor autonomic. Rather, it involves the interpretation and evaluation of stimuli, and the negative evaluations have no impact on others unless they are verbalized.

When they are verbalized, hostile responses take the form of negative labels of the kind that are used in derogatory (aggressive) comments or feeling statements, such as "I hate you," "I despise you," This does not mean that hostility and aggression are identical, but rather that aggression may have hostile components. Just as anger may be part of an



aggressive response in that it adds autonomic and certain postural features to an attacking response, hostility may be part of an aggressive response in that there is strong resentment of and negative evaluation of the victim of the attack.