



"We normally associate punishments and rewards with the teaching process. Some simple child-machines can be constructed or programmed on this sort of principle. The machine has to be so constructed that events which shortly preceded the occurrence of a punishment-signal are unlikely to be repeated, whereas a reward-signal increased the probability of repetition of the events which led up to it. These definitions do not presuppose any feelings on the part of the machine. I have done some experiments with one such child-machine, and succeeded in teaching it a few things, but the teaching method was too unorthodox for the experiment to be considered really successful."

in the context of paragraph above, what is the meaning of this sentence:

"These definitions do not presuppose any feelings on the part of the machine."



In the context of the paragraph, the sentence "These definitions do not presuppose any feelings on the part of the machine" means that the machine does not have emotions or consciousness like a human would. Instead, its learning process is based purely on a mechanical or programmed response to punishments and rewards. The machine adjusts its behavior in response to external signals (punishment or reward) without any need for emotional experience or understanding—its reactions are governed by programming rather than feelings.

In essence, the sentence clarifies that the learning described is a functional, mechanical process, not tied to any subjective experience.



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