



## **Bidirectional Naming and the Echoic**

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The term bidirectional naming has been used in the literature both as a descriptive term to characterize certain types of emergent stimulus control over speaker and listener behavior, and as an explanatory construct derived from Horne and Lowe's (1996) naming hypothesis. When used in the first sense, an explanation is required; when used in the second sense, the validity of the explanation must be examined. As an explanation, bidirectional naming incorporates a role of echoic responding in emergent stimulus control over speaker behavior. For example, a child who is told the name of a novel object may later be able to tact the object without further instruction, but only if during exposure they engaged in relevant behavior that includes an overt or a covert echoic response. This proposed role of the echoic has many practical implications, but limited empirical support. I will review studies that have examined the role of the echoic in emergent tact control using correlational and experimental methods, discuss the practical and conceptual implications of the findings, and suggest directions for clinical research.