

Psychoanalytic Theory Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)



Psychic determinism

- This principle holds that in all mental functioning nothing happens by chance.
- Everything a person feels, thinks, fantasizes, dreams, and does has a psychological motive.



What Freud believed.....

- Everything you do is motivated by inner unconscious forces.
- We are driven by the libido or sexual energy (sometimes referred to as psychic energy).
- Aggression and libido are tied together.
- Other laws of energy are the pleasure principle and the reality principle



What Freud believed.....

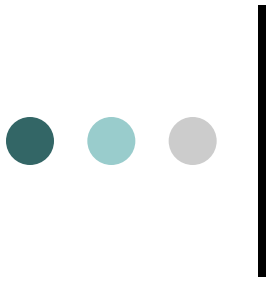
- Personality is formed in the first six years of life.
- Fixation is an unresolved conflict caused by frustration.
- Defense mechanism.



The human psyche

- Id
- ego
- superego.

Anxiety may be present from conflicts between the id, ego, superego.

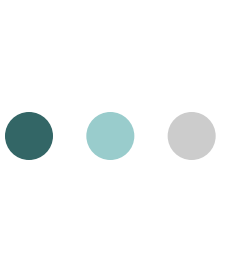


Freud

Psychosexual Stages of Development

Primary focus is on social/emotion development. (Personality theory).

Past traumatic experiences highly influence personality development.



At particular points in the developmental process, he claimed a single body part is particularly sensitive to sexual, erotic stimulation.

These erogenous zones are the mouth, the anus, and the genital region.

The child's libido centers on behavior affecting the primary erogenous zone of his age; he cannot focus on the primary erogenous zone of the next stage without resolving the developmental conflict of the immediate one.



The Oral Stage

From birth to about 18 months

Infants' pleasure comes from stimulation of the mouth. If we get fixated at this stage, we might have oral fixations.

Characteristics of frustration at this stage, (mother refused to nurse on demand or truncated nursing sessions early) are pessimism, envy, suspicion, and sarcasm.

The overindulged oral characteristics, (nursing urges were always and often excessively satisfied) are optimistic, gullible, and full of admiration for others around him.

I.E. gum chewing, smoking, etc.



The Anal Stage

18 months to 3 years.

The child turns his attention to elimination functions. This is potty training time. A child can express themselves by holding on or letting go of their bowel movements.

This can be used as manipulation for what they want.

If parents are too lenient, and the child manages to derive pleasure and success from an expulsion, the result is the formation of an anal expulsive character. This character is generally messy, disorganized, reckless, careless, and defiant.



The Anal Stage

18 months to 3 years.

Conversely, a child may opt to retain feces, enjoying the pleasurable pressure of the built-up feces in his intestine. If this tactic succeeds and the child is overindulged, he will develop into an anal retentive character.

This character is neat, precise, orderly, careful, stingy, withholding, obstinate, meticulous, and passive-aggressive.

The resolution of the anal stage, (proper toilet training), permanently affects the individual propensities to possession and attitudes toward authority.



The Phallic Stage Age 3-6

Increased sexual interest causes the child to be physically attracted to the parent of the opposite sex.

For the boy the Oedipal Complex (ED-OPAL) occurs. The boy falls in love with the mother and wants to get rid of the father.

For the girls, they go through Penis Envy (Electra Conflict). The girl loves the father and competes with the mother for his love. The girl treasures the penis because she does not have one and the father does.

Fixation at the phallic stage develops a phallic character, who is reckless, resolute, self-assured, and narcissistic—excessively vain and proud. The failure to resolve the conflict can also cause a person to be afraid or incapable of close love. Freud postulated that fixation could be a root cause of homosexuality.

The next period is **LATENCY** from 6 to puberty. This is not a stage, but a time during psychosexual development is on hold.



The genital stage

Puberty: Time of sexual energy.

This is the beginning of social-sexual relationships. This time ends with sexual maturity.