Lecture Series:  Chapter 3  Psychoanalytic Aspects of Personality


Principal Features

Introduction

Complete the following:

“… Sigmund Freud has hinted that childhood experiences, …”

(68)

Question: What are meant by the following statements?

"The naturalness of a Freudian interpretation of personality gives elegant testimony to the success and influence of many of the ideas of a Freudian, psychoanalytic approach to personality.”

(68-69)

"Sigmund Freud is sometimes treated as a historical curiosity by laboratory-oriented modern personality researchers …

(69)
"In 1885, Freud went to Paris to study with the famous neuropathologist J. M. Charcot."

"Charcot was studying hysteria."

Question: What is hysteria? (69)

Complete the following:

“… Charcot and Pierre Janet were successfully using hypnosis to cure hysteria. The idea behind the therapy was that, unbeknownst to the patient, psychological forces in the mind were causing …

The Unconscious and Therapeutic Techniques

“… Freud … began experimenting with (the) technique of free association …

Question: What is free association? (70)

“… (Freud)… saw dreams as pieces of and hints about the unconscious.”

Question: What is the unconscious insofar as Sigmund Freud was concerned?

Illustrations: Psychoanalytic interpretation of a dream.
“According to psychoanalytic theory, dreams, and indeed most aspects of psychological experience, are said to have two levels of content—manifest content and latent content.”

Illustrations: Manifest content and latent content of dreams. (71-72)

The Structure of the Mind

Question: What is the id insofar as Sigmund Freud was concerned? (72)

Question: What is the pleasure principle insofar as Freud was concerned?

Question: What is the ego insofar as Freud was concerned?

Question: What is the reality principle insofar as Freud was concerned?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Throughout life the pleasure-seeking id constantly struggles with the reality-checking ego.” (73)
The Structure of the Mind
(Continued)

Question: What is the superego insofar as Freud was concerned? (73)

Question: What, according to Sigmund Freud, happens when the ego and especially the superego do not do their job properly as Freud was concerned?

“… psychological errors in speaking or writing have come to be called Freudian slips.”

Illustrations: Freudian slips. (73-74)

Psychosexual Development

Question: What is the libido insofar as Freud was concerned? (74)
Oral Stage

Question: What is the oral stage of psychosexual development insofar as Freud was concerned? (75)

Question: What happens when a person is fixated at the oral stage of psychosexual development insofar as Sigmund Freud was concerned?

Anal Stage

Question: What is the anal stage of psychosexual development insofar as Freud was concerned? (75-76)

Question: What happens when a person is fixated at the anal stage of psychosexual development insofar as Sigmund Freud was concerned? (76)

Phallic Stage

Question: What is the phallic stage of psychosexual development insofar as Freud was concerned? (77)
**Oedipus Complex**

**Question:** What is meant by the following statement?

"Little Hans … suffered from a **phobia**"

**Question:** What is **castration anxiety** insofar as Freud was concerned?

**Question:** What is the **Oedipus complex** insofar as Freud was concerned?

**Illustrations:** Oedipus complex.
**Penis Envy**

**Question:** What is the *penis envy* insofar as Freud was concerned?

**Illustrations:** Penis envy. (79)

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**Latency Period**

**Question:** What is the *latency period* of psychosexual development insofar as Freud was concerned? (80)

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**Genital Stage**

**Question:** What is the *genital stage* of psychosexual development insofar as Freud was concerned?

**Illustrations:** Genital stage.
Genital Stage

**Question:** What is meant by the following statement?

"… Freudian theory is based on a medical model of pathology, therapy, and cure.”

Male versus Female

**Question:** What were Sigmund Freud's notions regarding sexuality come to be regarded as a key force in human nature?

**Question:** What are meant by the following statements

"(With respect to male versus female differences) Freud had good ideas but poor data.”

“(Freud’s) theories … focused on male behavior as the norm and female behavior as a deviation.”
Defense Mechanisms

"Challenges from the outer environment and from our inner urges threaten us with anxiety."

"The ego, governed by the reality principle, tried to deal realistically with the environment."

Question: What are defense mechanisms insofar as Freud was concerned? (83)

Repression

Question: What is repression insofar as Freud was concerned?

Illustrations: Repression (and posttraumatic stress) (84)
Reaction Formation

Question: What is reaction formation insofar as Freud was concerned? (87)

Illustrations: Reaction formation. (87-88)

Denial

Question: What is denial insofar as Freud was concerned? (89)

Illustrations: Denial.
Projection

Question: What is projection insofar as Freud was concerned? (89)

Illustrations: Projection. (89-90)

Displacement

Question: What is displacement insofar as Freud was concerned? (90)

Example: Displacement. (91)
**Displacement**

(Continued)

**Question:** What is the **hydraulic displacement model** in psychoanalytic theory?

**Sublimation**

**Question:** What is **sublimation** insofar as Freud was concerned?

**Question:** What are meant by the following statements?

"Artistic endeavors are often attributed to sublimation."

"Freud viewed society as a means to turn sexual energy away from sexual ends … "

(91)
Regression

Question: What is regression insofar as Freud was concerned?

Examples: Regression.

Rationalization

Question: What is rationalization insofar as Freud was concerned?

Illustration: Rationalization.
Cross Cultural Issues

Question: How did Sigmund Freud apply psychoanalysis to understanding culture?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Freud … engaged in psychobiography."

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Habits are not personality."
**Major Contributions and Limitations of Freudian Psychoanalysis**

Question: What are meant by the following statements?

"Freud … revolutionized psychology with his emphasis on sexuality as a prime element of personality.” (95)

"Freud … stressed the importance of early childhood experiences on adult personality.”

“… Freud … developed … the idea of the unconscious.”

“Freud … showed that mental illness was on a continuum with physical illness.”

“… the psychoanalytic approach is a pessimistic and deterministic view of personality.” (95-96)
Major Contributions and Limitations of Freudian Psychoanalysis
(Continued)

Question: What are meant by the following statement?

"Psychoanalytic approaches to personality are generally difficult to evaluate as scientific theories."

Question: What is the presumed relationship between Freudian psychoanalysis and psychosurgery?

Complete the following:

“Finally, a key criticism of psychoanalysis is that Freud was relatively unconcerned with interpersonal relations or with the individual’s …"
Modern Developments from Experimental Psychology

Question: What happened to Freudian psychoanalysis when behaviorism began to dominate the entire realm of experimental psychology?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"… researchers from within (the) domain (of human cognition) came upon their own need to consider unconscious processes."

Example: Cognition and the unconscious.
Unconscious Emotion and Motivation

**Question:** What is meant by the following statement?

"The idea of unconscious motivation is clearly supported by research on emotion."

Hypermnesia

**Question:** What is **hypermnesia**?

**Question:** How does the traditional explanation of memory from traditional learning theory differ from that of psychoanalysis?

"In psychoanalysis, free association is used as a key method of uncovering memories that are initially not accessible to the patient's consciousness."

**Question:** What is meant by the following statement?

"Psychoanalytic technique is presented as a method of uncovering the repressed memories that are interfering with good psychological health …"
Hypermnesia
(Continued)

"There are many sources of inaccuracy and distortion on memory, all of which can independently influence both what is initially encoded from an experience and what is later retrieved from memory about it."

Question: What are meant by the following statements?

"A subjective feeling of certainty is not always correlated with the real accuracy of what is remembered."

"The availability or accessibility of a memory can be increased by providing appropriate cues, hints, and probes."

“Patients in psychotherapy who are trying to retrieve significant memories can be viewed as being in (a) signal detection situation.”

“Freud was correct in abandoning hypnosis early in the development of psychoanalysis.”
Infantile Amnesia

Question: What is the Freudian notion of infantile amnesia?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"As with much of Freud’s work, the phenomenon (of infantile amnesia) is accepted but the explanation has changed."

Examples: Early memories.

Subliminal Perception

Question: What is subliminal perception?
Subliminal Perception
(Continued)

Question: What are meant by the following statements?

“… subliminal perception techniques may sound plausible to lay people who have heard a little Freudian theory.”

"There are two serious flaws in the subliminal learning technique."

“Subliminal perception should be distinguished from phenomena involving the direction of attention.”
**Memory**

**Question:** What are meant by the following statements?

“The direct study of human memory provide many a good example of how cognitive descriptions intersect with psychoanalytic ones.”

“… what is remembered about an event is not identical to the event itself, but rather is a personalized, interpreted, internalized representation of that event.”

“… individualized memory is not one single, crystallized entity that must be either present or absent in the person who experienced the event …”

**Question:** What is explicit memory?

**Question:** What is implicit memory?
**Question:** What is meant by the following statement?

“(The) dissociation between explicit and implicit memory demonstrates that experiences that are not consciously remembered can still influence our behavior.”

**Illustration:** Explicit and implicit memory.

“(The) phenomenon of implicit memory is usually now interpreted within a strictly cognitive (non-Freudian) perspective.”

Complete the following:

“The cognitivists tend to see it as evidence that the representational code in which skills tend to be encoded in the brain is not necessarily compatible with …

“The representation of the skill itself can be present in memory (in a procedural format not available to consciousness), even in the absence of …

“In cognitive terminology, **procedural memory** (is) (memory for how to …

“… **declarative memory** (is) (memory for …

“… and either may exist without the …
Memory
(Continued)

Illustration: Procedural and declarative memory. (109)

Amnesia

“(In amnesia patients) … no new conscious memories can be successfully retrieved even minutes after an experience has occurred.”

Illustration: Anterograde amnesia. (109-110)

Question: What are meant by the following statements?

“… there is strong evidence for a dissociation between the conscious memories of amnesic and those events that have actually influenced them.” (110)

“… Freud’s views of the unconscious differ from the more modern cognitive views in important ways.”
Complete the following:

“In the cognitive view of the unconscious, there is no active process of protection from the …” (112)

“There is no widely accepted cognitive parallel to Freud’s notion of the …

“It remains to be seen whether Freud was overgeneralizing and overinterpreting his observations about unconscious processes and memory, or whether modern cognitive psychologists are …
Summary and Conclusion

Complete the following:

“Freud’s psychosexual theory of development proposed that individuals encounter stages in their developmental trajectories in which certain goals are most important”

“He further posited that if the conflict associated with a particular stage were not resolved, the individual would become … (114)

“The first stage (oral stage) is a period during which drives to …

“The second stage (anal stage) deals with the relief of …

“… individuals fixated at this stage may be …

“During the third stage (phallic stage) the focus is on the …

“The fourth stage is relatively longer than the first three stages and is termed the latency stage because …

“The successful resolution of the last stage (the genital stage) is indicated by a …
Summary and Conclusion
(Continued)

Complete the following:

“The idea that the patterns of resolution of such childhood conflicts can greatly influence adult personality has generally been accepted, but many of the specific predictions …”

“Freud also developed complex but influential theories of the defense mechanisms—the mind’s attempts to distort reality to make life more palatable and less threatening.”

“One key defense mechanism is repression, or the ability to relegate …”

“Another of Freud’s defense mechanisms is called reaction formation (that occurs when) a person has urges that go against his or her …”

“A related mechanism is that of sublimation, the transformation of …”

“Denial, another defense mechanism, is the inability (or refusal) of the mind to …”

“Projection occurs when anxiety-provoking impulses are attributed to …”
Summary and Conclusion
(Continued)

Complete the following:

“Displacement occurs when threatening feelings are attributed to …” (115)

“In regression, individuals …

“finally, and perhaps most common, is the defense mechanism of rationalization—assigning logical explanations to …

“… Freudian theory can be used as a basis to begin exploring many current topics in psychology.”

“For example, hypermnesia, the phenomenon in which a later attempt to remember something yields information that was not …

“Likewise, infantile amnesia, the phenomenon that people generally do not remember things from infancy and very early childhood, is of great interest to those studying …

“Studies of subliminal perception and of implicit memory … are derived from Freudian ideas about the …

“Finally, although Freud’s preoccupation with human sexuality and the id are nowadays viewed as an overemphasis, it remains to be seen whether Freud overinterpreted his observations or whether modern psychologists are …

END