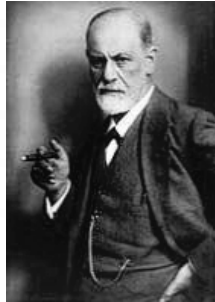


Psychodynamic theory: Freud

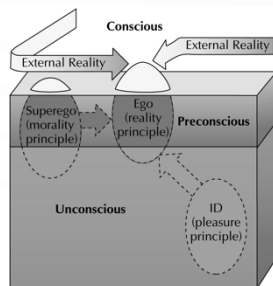


1856-1939

Psychoanalytic Theory

- Psychoanalytic theory, as devised by Freud, attempts to explain personality on the basis of unconscious mental forces
- Key points
 1. Levels of consciousness
 2. Personality is made up of multiple structures, some of which are unconscious
 4. Stages of personality development (Psychosexual)
 5. We have impulses that cause us anxiety; our personality develops defense mechanisms to protect against anxiety.

Levels of Consciousness



Structure of the Personality

- ID: Impulsive and unconscious part of the psyche.
 - Operates on pleasure principle.
- EGO: Mediator between ID and Superego
 - Operates on reality principle.
- SUPEREGO: Represents the ideals and moral standards of society

Stages of Psychosexual Development

- fixation at each stage. psycho energy across stages with a certain
- Stages
 - Oral stage (first year of life)
 - Oedipal conflict
 - Anal stage (second year of life)
 - Oedipal conflict
 - Phallic stage (3rd to 6th year of life)
 - as a result of castration anxiety.
 - Latency (from age 5-6 until puberty)
 - Sexual impulses are repressed while child learns cognitive and social skills.
 - Genital Stage (from puberty on)
 - Sexual pleasure focused on autoeroticism and intercourse.

Defense Mechanisms

- Defense mechanisms refer to unconscious mental processes that protect the conscious person from developing anxiety
 - Sublimation: person channels energy from unacceptable impulses to create socially acceptable accomplishments
 - Denial: person refuses to recognize reality
 - Projection: person attributes their own unacceptable impulses to others
 - Repression: anxiety-evoking thoughts are pushed into the unconscious

What are the major criticisms of Freud's Theories

- Too vague and all-encompassing.
- Consequences: Even if it is not right, it can't be proven wrong (i.e., theory is not falsifiable and is therefore, not testable).
 - impossible to come up with a null hypothesis.
- What are some examples?
- Untestability of Freud's theory is specific to Freud's theory and NOT necessarily to modern psychological theories about unconscious processes.

The Unconscious in Modern Psychology

Still the most interesting aspect of mental life for psychologists to study

Table 3.1 Comparison of Two Views of the Unconscious: Psychoanalytic and Cognitive

Psychoanalytic View

1. Emphasis on illogical, irrational unconscious processes.
2. Content emphasis on motives and wishes.
3. Emphasis on motivated aspects of unconscious functioning.

Cognitive View

1. Absence of fundamental difference between conscious and unconscious processes.
2. Content emphasis on thoughts.
3. Focus on nonmotivated aspects of unconscious functioning.

Pronoun Priming Method

PRIMING FOR INDEPENDENCE

(Gardner, et al., 1999)

I go to the city often. My anticipation fills me as I see the skyscrapers come into view. I allow myself to explore every corner, never letting an attraction escape me. My voice fills the air and street. I see all the sights, I window shop, and everywhere I go I see my reflection looking back at me in the glass of a hundred windows. At nightfall I linger my time in the city almost over. When finally I must leave, I do so knowing that I will soon return. The city belongs to me.

Contextualized vs. Decontextualized Processing

Kühnen and Oyserman (2002)

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Terror Management Theory

- other animals)
- People's awareness of the inevitability of death (an awareness that is uniquely human)
- Reminding people of their mortality (*salience*) causes anxiety and defense mechanisms to protect oneself from that anxiety.
- Has predictable consequences.
 - symbolically by identifying with a particular cultural worldview.
 - Consequences: Become more antagonistic towards individuals who deviate from one's cultural worldview.

Criticisms of Psychoanalytic Theory

- Theory is difficult to test
- Theory places an overemphasis on unconscious forces
- Inadequate evidence to support the theory (only a few case studies)
- Sexism may have tainted the theory
- Lack of cross-cultural support for theory
