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Unit 1 - Introduction

1. A scientific theory is a logical set of arguments that researchers put together in order to explain certain phenomena in our natural world, and to continually substantiate, by way of experimentation or observation (Angielczyk, 2017).

Inductive theories intend to persuade in that they make ideological statements, substantiated by observational evidence. Such an example is Edward Thorndike's "law of effect" which states that any behavior whose end result is pleasing most likely will be repeated. Whereas actions followed by undesirable consequences will probably not recur. I teach preschoolers and I can attest to this concept.

It is difficult to get a classroom full of 4 year olds to sleep in the middle of the day. So, my colleagues and I have implemented the sticker reward system. If they nap, they find a sticker on their foreheads when they awake. If you do not, we try again the next day for a sticker. From one day of school until now, this method has yielded good results!

On the other hand, deductive theories start at generalizations and test their way to the specific conclusions. Broad statements like all children take their first step at twelve months. Kai is a year old today, so he will walk soon. With deductive theories, distinct hypotheses come about as a result of "postulates" and a group of connected "proportions," and later are to test (Ryckman, 2008).

2. Our textbook attempts to capture the true meaning of the word, "personality," as it is a complex phenomenon. At best, it can be described as one's mental and emotional makeup,

involving family and learning history, and how these elements control the way the individual behaves under different circumstances.

The current meanings of the term, however, are limited to what society sees as likable or compensation for what seems less appealing in an individual. Thinking like this makes no room for many different types of behavior (which are elements of personality) and suggests that people who have unusual ways of storing information and rare, inherent tendencies have no personality.

7. A case study is a comprehensive look into the affairs of one person or a group of people. One analyst usually gathers the necessary information. However, the problem with this method of inquiry is that the person collecting the data can unknowingly influence its outcome by his/her own biases. As well, case studies can lack efficiency when it comes to findings on a generalized scale. And, they are incapable of exhibiting cause and effect.

Nevertheless, qualitative, extensive research is possible this way. The investigator can gain knowledge for case studies in the future and rarities can be explored.

Freud

1. All Freudian concepts, the conscious, preconscious and unconscious are aspects of our mind and personality. In the conscious realm, we are alert to ideas, stimuli, and this domain functions above personality, having little to do with its growth and activity.

The preconscious has to do with thoughts one is not actively having, but with the right prompting, things forgotten have the capability to make an appearance. This reminds me of how a Google search on the internet works. If you type one word into the browser, you will bring up a history of past findings.

And finally, the unconscious, the meat and potatoes of Freud's psychoanalytic theory that deals with the part of our minds that is hidden deep within our psyche. Painful thoughts of our past

reside here, too difficult to surface. They are “repressed memories” that have been driven into oblivion (Ryckman, 2008).

2. Freud states that our personalities are made up of three parts known as the id, ego and superego. The id is the unconscious part of our psyche that contains uncontrollable urges from birth. The id is dominated by the pleasure principle and is eager to act recklessly. However, the ego moderates the id’s impulsivity in order to deal with the real world and the superego establishes a value system of right and wrong.

The superego holds our sense of morality, taught to us by our parents and other respected elders. There are important subdivisions within the superego called the conscience and the ego-ideal. We sustain our consciences as a result of parental reprimands and the ego-ideal becomes known when they reward us.

8. Freud’s concept of dreams and what they can reveal to us seem familiar! To Joseph, Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar, God revealed His mysteries. In Freud’s psychotherapy, he employed the analysis of dreams to “unlock the secrets of the unconscious” and extract worthwhile material about the source of his client's issues and means through which they were hidden from consciousness.

Also, his concept of the elements of personality - the id, ego, superego, conscience and ego-ideal - agrees with the Christian worldview. The Bible says that, “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him” (Proverbs 22:15). And in Jeremiah 17: 9, it reads that, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Those uncontrollable urges that Freud said were housed in the id are controlled ultimately by a guardian’s correction, a sense of morality and a Godly conscience.

His Free Association technique in therapy reminds me of Luke 6: 45 which says that, “...out of the abundance of heart the mouth speaks.” Freud allowed his patients to freely share whatever came to mind as a means of tapping into the source of their psychological dilemmas. As I get older and the appreciation for psychotherapy increases, I find myself talking less and listening more. Most people love an audience, even if it is composed of one. So, you can discern different types of character or help to soothe a lonely heart by taking the time to tune in.

But, his talk of young children with sexual urges and having incestuous thoughts toward their parents went a bit overboard! From a Christian perspective, it is repulsive and contrary to God’s truth. Freud said that a child’s psychosexual energy starts to develop from age five? Is that right?

References

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