

Nashline Cyrillien
Professor Maret
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PSY 441

Chapter 2

1. Define the concepts of conscious, preconscious, and unconscious.

The conscious operates on the surface of personality. In fact, it refers to the sensations and ideas we're aware of. Psychological healthy individuals have a greater awareness of their experiences.

The conscious mind includes fantasies, feelings, memories, perceptions, sensations, thoughts.

The preconscious are experiences that reflect as unconscious but become conscious. The preconscious operates beneath the surface of awareness. For instance, if you were to be asked what show you watched last night, this would reflect you pulling that memory out of your preconscious.

The unconscious exists on the deepest level of personality. For instance, this may include, memories of sexual abuse that we may experience during childhood, whether from a parent or relative. This could lead to consistent feelings of humiliation, anger or rage etc. These repressed memories can still operate externally because it interferes with conscious and rational behavior.

3. Describe the oral, anal, phallic, and genital stages and the character types associated with each stage.

The oral stage is associated with infants. Freud believed that infants are all id since they can't distinguish themselves between self and the environment. During the pregenital stage is the mouth, or oral stage. *In Theories of Personality*, it states, "Pleasurable sensations occur as the infant takes in food and water. The parents' behavior is critical in determining whether or not the infant will experience personal difficulties later in life," (Ryckman, 32). Infants are controlled by biological impulses and their difficulties are reflected pertaining to how the mother treats the infant's needs during the first year. If overindulgence occurs, it is most likely that the child obtains oral receptive character. This can lead to the dependency on others and can result in people being gullible, too trusting etc. However, when parents indulge, this can develop sadistic attitudes or oral aggressive character. An oral aggressive character envies others and uses manipulative strategies to dominate them.

During the anal stage, pleasurable sensations are focused on anal cavity. The pleasures of a child during 2-3 years of age involves retention or expulsion of feces. The independence the child begins to assert doesn't involve rational decision making. When it comes to being potty trained, parents often stress the importance of urination and defecation, but children can resist these demands. The anal character is obstinacy, parsimony and orderliness. Obstinacy is seen as stubborn and resistant to be controlled by others. Parsimony are stingy and frugal in regards to possession or time. Orderliness is their routine in which they live.

The Phallic Stage occurs during the fourth and fifth years, there's sexual tension on the genital area. At this age, girls and boys experience pleasure from self manipulation. Boys develop a longing for sexual contact with the mother, most likely affection and love. However, the sexual relationship between the father is prevalent and the boy feels fearful of being punished for his desires. In this case, the child undergoes identification with his father, in order for his sexual desires to be stopped. In other words, the Oedipal complex. The phallic character in males is a reaction to anxiety so they behave irrationally. Men have to validate how real of a man they are. Women are labeled as "castrating females".

The Genital stage involves an increase of sexual tension. As children get older so do their reproductive organs. Genital character is the ideal type. They're capable of expressing themselves in a productive way. Others pursue their happiness through dance and some refine their intellectual skills.

5. Describe the development of identification by boys with their fathers and girls with their mothers.

The identification by boys with their fathers and girls with their mothers occurs during the Phallic stage. Boys provoke a desire of seeking love and affection from their mother. However, since there's rivalry between their fathers. Since the father is stronger, the child feels inferior and fearful because of his sexual desires. So his fear becomes a "castration anxiety by identification with his father", (Ryckman, 33). Freud named this situation, the Oedipal complex to related to Oedipus killing his father and committing incest with his mother. In fact, Freud believed that a girl envies boys because they were born without a penis, so girls compensate by emulating boys and masturbating their clitoris. Although the mother is being resented for not providing a penis, they love their father because he has a "penis" that they desire to have. Freud continues on by inflicting the desires that can't be fulfilled as "inadequate superegos".