

# **Freud: Infantile Sexuality**

Outline by John Protevi / Permission to reproduce granted for academic use

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## I. Introduction

### A. Neglect of the Infantile Factor

1. grave error to neglect this
2. regular existence of sexual instinct unrecognized

### B. Infantile Amnesia

1. hides up to 6 or 8,
  - a. yet we had very lively impressions
  - b. these left deepest traces, but were repressed
    - (1) similar to neurotics
    - (2) and hysterics
2. clues:
  - a. neurotics stuck at infantile-sexuality stage
  - b. hysterical amnesia: memory-traces attracting, by association, material to be repressed

## II. (1) The Period of Sexual Latency in Childhood and its Interruptions

### A. Sexual Inhibitions

1. early buildup of mental forces that impede sexual instinct
  - a. disgust
  - b. shame
  - c. aesthetic and moral ideals
2. occurs by heredity, not by education, which should just follow

### B. Reaction-formation and sublimation

1. redirection of sexual energies
2. why? erotic pleasures from zones conflicting with development
  - a. arouse unpleasure
  - b. disgust, shame, morality suppress this unpleasure

### C. Interruptions of the Latency Period

1. bane of mainstream educators
2. our clue to original configuration of sexual instincts

## III. (2) Manifestations of Infantile Sexuality

### A. Thumb-sucking

1. origin with nourishment: search for remembered pleasure
2. absorbs attention
  - a. leads to sleep
  - b. or even quasi-orgasm

### B. Auto-erotism

1. self-satisfaction
2. attaches to vital need: breast-feeding
  - a. prototype of later sexual satisfaction
3. independence from world beyond control
4. three characteristics of infantile sexual manifestation
  - a. attaches itself to vital function
  - b. has no external object, thus is auto-erotic
  - c. dominated by an erotogenic zone

## IV. (3) Sexual Aim of Infantile Sexuality

### A. Characteristics of erotogenic zones

1. part of skin or mucus membrane in which stimulation produces pleasure
2. stimulus must have rhythm
3. any part can take over function of erotogenic zones
4. hysteric displacement:
  - a. genital pleasure is repressed
  - b. pleasure migrates to another zone

### B. The Infantile sexual aim

1. obtain satisfaction by stimulation of erotogenic zones.
2. must have been previously experienced to leave behind need for repetition

### 3. repetition need

a. tension: unpleasure

b. itching/stimulation:

(1) centrally conditioned

(2) projected onto the erotogenic zones.

4. reformulation: replace projected sensation by external stim which removes itch by producing f feeling of satisfaction

## V.(4) Masturbatory Sexual Manifestations

### A. activity of the anal zone

1. retention builds accumulation which yields greater pleasure on release

2. feces as first gift

a. production indicates active compliance w/ environment

b. withholding indicates disobedience

### B. activity of the genital zones

1. not the first zone

2. but "destined to great things in the future"

3. foundations for future primacy in early infantile masturbation and need for repetition

4. different techniques

a. boys prefer hand: instinct for mastery

b. girl rub thighs together

### C. Second phase of infantile masturbation

1. about four years old

2. details of this phase

a. leave deepest uncns impressions

b. determine development

(1) of healthy character

(2) of neurotic symptomatology

### D. return of early infantile masturbation

1. returns

a. as tickling stimulus calling for satisfaction in masturbation

b. or nocturnal emission (w/o help of subject)

2. seduction is important in some cases, but is contingent and external

### E. Polymorphously perverse disposition

1. seduction can lead to these "irregularities"

2. seduced children are like "ave. uncultivated woman" (!!)

3. prostitutes exploit p.p.d. for purposes of their profession (!!)

### F. Component instincts

1. seduction effects confuse our view of inf. sex. by prematurely presenting a sexual object

2. but, some components of inf. sex. involve others from the start

a. scopophilia (voyeurism)

b. exhibitionism

c. cruelty

## VI.(5) The Sexual Researches of Childhood

### A. The Instinct for Knowledge

1. sublimated manner of obtaining mastery

2. uses energy of scopophilia

### B. The Riddle of the Sphinx

1. practical not theoretical

2. first set off by threat to centrality by another child

a. riddle of where babies come from prior to

b. question of sexual differentiation

### C. Castration complex and penis envy

1. little boys cannot understand non-penis people

2. "biology": clitoris as substitute

3. little girls suffer penis envy; wish to be boys

### D. Theories of Birth

### E. Sadistic view of sexual intercourse

### F. Typical failure of infantile sexual researches

1. reflections of stage of development

2. two failures

- a.role of semen
- b.existence of female organ

#### VII.(6)Phases of Development of the Sexual Organization

##### A.pregenital organization

- 1.oral: cannibalistic
  - a.food
  - b.incorporation
  - c.identification
- 2.anal: sadistic
  - a.opposition of active and passive
    - (1)active mastery of muscle control
    - (2)passive receptacle of the anus

##### B.Ambivalence

- 1.balance of active - passive

[Freud here notes that object choice occurs early: direction toward a single person. He also notes that third, phallic stage, can be distinguished: knows only male organ]

##### C.Diphasic choice of object

- 1.between 2 and 5:
  - a.halt of latency period
  - b.retained and carried over to second phase:
- 2.puberty

#### VIII.(7)The Sources of Infantile Sexuality

##### A.previously indicated sources

- 1.reproduction of satisfaction of other organic processes
- 2.stimulation of erotogenic zones
- 3.expression of component instincts

##### B.Mechanical excitations

- 1.three ways
  - a.sensory apparatus of vestibular nerves
  - b.skin
  - c.deeper parts
- 2.rocking, swinging, rail travel

##### C.Muscular activity

##### D.Affective processes

##### E.Intellectual work

##### F.Varieties of sexual constitution

- 1.unequal contributions from these indirect sources
- 2.help explain different constitutions

##### G.Pathways of mutual influence

- 1.all connections of other functions and sexuality are two-way streets