

CHAPTER 14 – PERSONALITY IN UNCONSCIOUS PROCESSES

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- identify the central themes in psychoanalytical theories
- recognise the value of psychoanalysis when applied to work behaviour
- describe the structure of personality as delineated by the main psychoanalytic theorists
- explain what directs and motivates personality, and where it originates
- explain the development of personality as postulated in the main psychoanalytic theories
- describe the healthy personality as viewed by psychoanalytic theorists
- describe abnormal behaviour as viewed by psychoanalytic theorists
- outline the major criticisms of psychoanalysis
- discuss the main contributions of psychoanalysis with reference to future directions to be taken.

KEY CONCEPTS

depth psychology – the study of the unconscious forces inside a person

psychoanalysis – analysis of unconscious desires and motives

topographical – dividing the human mind into three levels of awareness: consciousness, preconsciousness and unconsciousness

unconscious – unawareness level of the mind

instinct – innate impulses

drives – compelling forces directing behaviour

libidinal energy – sexual energy

personality structure – components constituting personality

id – seat of sexual and aggressive instincts

ego – reason or rationality

superego – conscience, moral values

psyche – human soul

personal unconscious – blend between unconsciousness and preconsciousness

collective unconscious – certain culturally inherited perceptions and behaviour

anxiety – state of feeling worried and troubled

defences – behaviour aimed at handling unwanted feelings and desires

development stages – progressive stages of growth

Oedipus conflict – unconscious desire to possess the opposite-sexed parent and simultaneously dispose of the same-sexed parent

Electra conflict – penis envy which females may have

individualisation – developing in a unique way

self-realisation – developing one's talents to the fullest

sibling rivalry – competition between children in a family

attitudes – ways of thinking and behaving

types – classifications according to shared characteristics

CHAPTER SYNOPSIS

This chapter concentrates on psychodynamic perspectives, with the main focus being on the role of the unconscious and related dynamics in personality. It focuses mostly on the teachings of Freud, Jung, Adler, Erickson, Horney and Fromm.