Freud's psychosexual Stages of Human Development

Dr. Parisa Iravani

MD

Assistant professor of medical university of Isfahan

Pediatrics department

THE THEORY OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS

To understand the theory, we need to see it in • the context of Freud's famous work on the unconscious. By acknowledging that we have a subconscious, we also imply that we store memories of early childhood and other experiences without even realizing it. These past experiences then unconsciously influence our behavior on a daily basis.

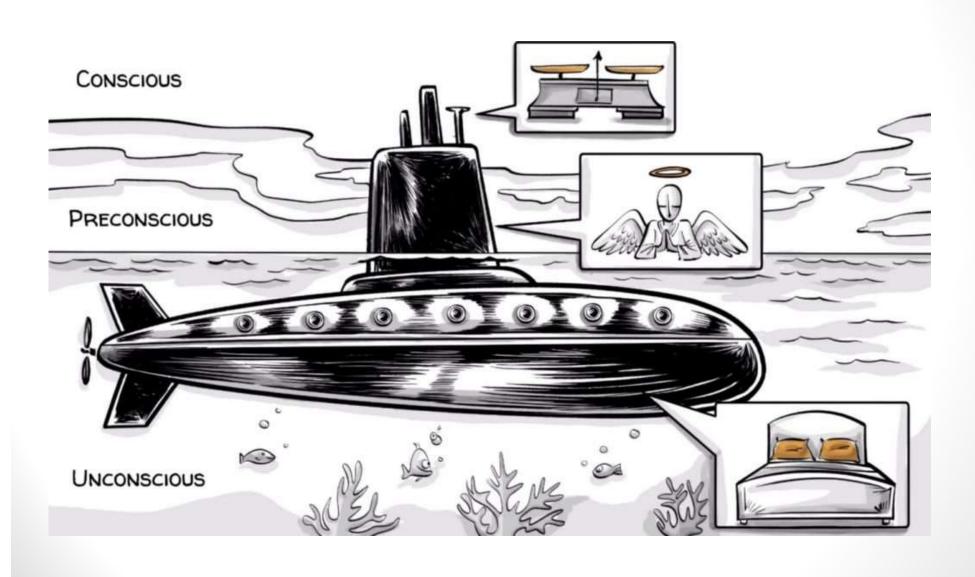


ID, EGO AND SUPEREGO



Young children are driven by the id • and demand immediate satisfaction. At around age seven, we begin to develop a superego and want to become good moral citizens and please others. The ego is formed with adolescence to balance the two forces.

THREE SPHERES OF CONSCIOUSNESS



Freud claimed that our mind operates in Υ • spheres, which we can imagine as a submarine. The unconscious level operates the id. The preconscious level operates the superego. The conscious and preconscious levels operate our ego.

What is psychosexual development?

Freud believed that adult personality problems were the result of early experiences in life.



He believed that we go through five • stages of psychosexual development and that at each stage of experience development we pleasure in one part of the body than in others.



Freud's theory of psychosexual development • claims that as we grow up we pass through five critical phases. Our sex drive, which Freud called the libido, focuses in a different erogenous zone at each phase. The phases are called: oral, anal, phallic, latency, and genital. If our experience during any of these phases was traumatic we might develop fixations later in life, such as neurosis, dependencies, addictions, or depression.

Stage	Age Range	Erogenous zone	Consequences of psycho logic fixation
Oral	Birth–1 and half year	Mouth	Orally aggressive: chewing gum and the ends of pencils, etc. Orally Passive: smoking, eating, kissing, oral sexual practices
Anal	1 and ½ –3 years	Bowel and bladder elimination	Anal retentive: Obsessively organized, or excessively neat Anal expulsive: reckless, careless, defiant, disorganized,
Phallic	3–6 years	Genitalia	Oedipus complex (in boys and girls); according to Sigmund Freud.
Latency	6-puberty	Dormant sexual feelings	Sexual unfulfillment if fixation occurs in this stage.
Genital	Puberty-death	Sexual interests mature	Frigidity, impotence, unsatisfactory relationships

What is psychosexual development?

Freud thought that our adult personality is • determined by the way we resolve conflicts between these early sources of pleasure; the mouth ,the anus and the genitals.

and the demands of reality •

What is fixation?

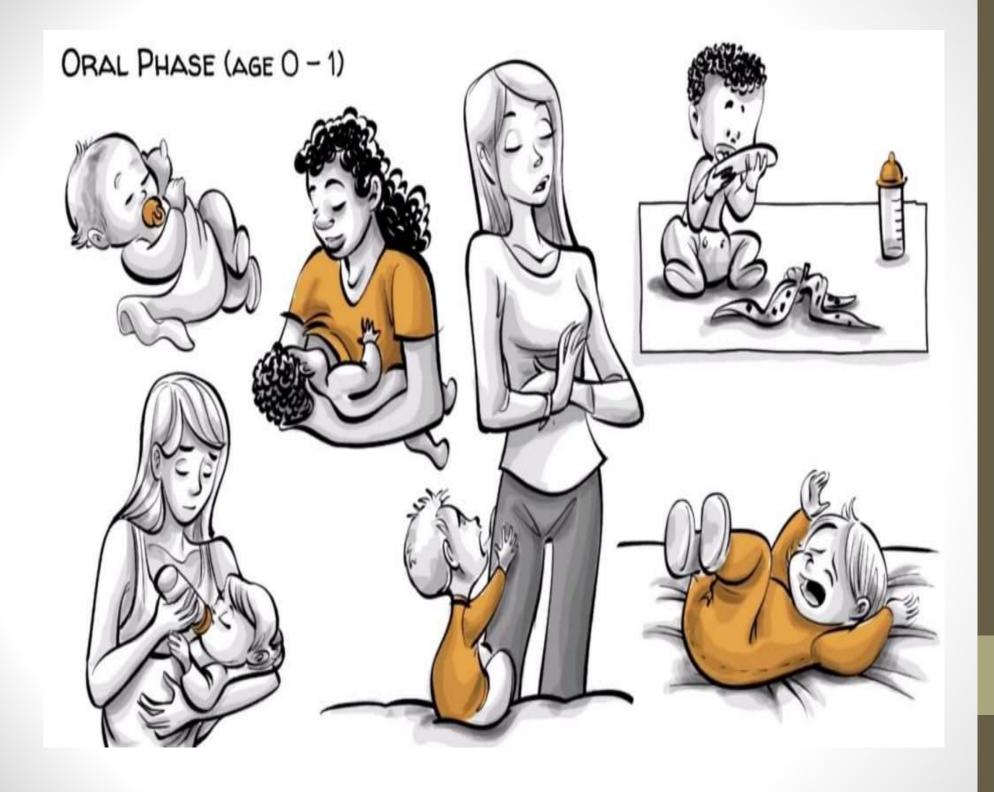
Fixation is the psychoanalytic defense mechanism that occurs when the individual remains locked in an earlier developmental stage because needs are under or over gratified.

Examples of fixation

- Weaning a child too early or until too late
- Being too strict in toilet training the child
- Punishing the child for masturbation
- Smothering the child with too much attention







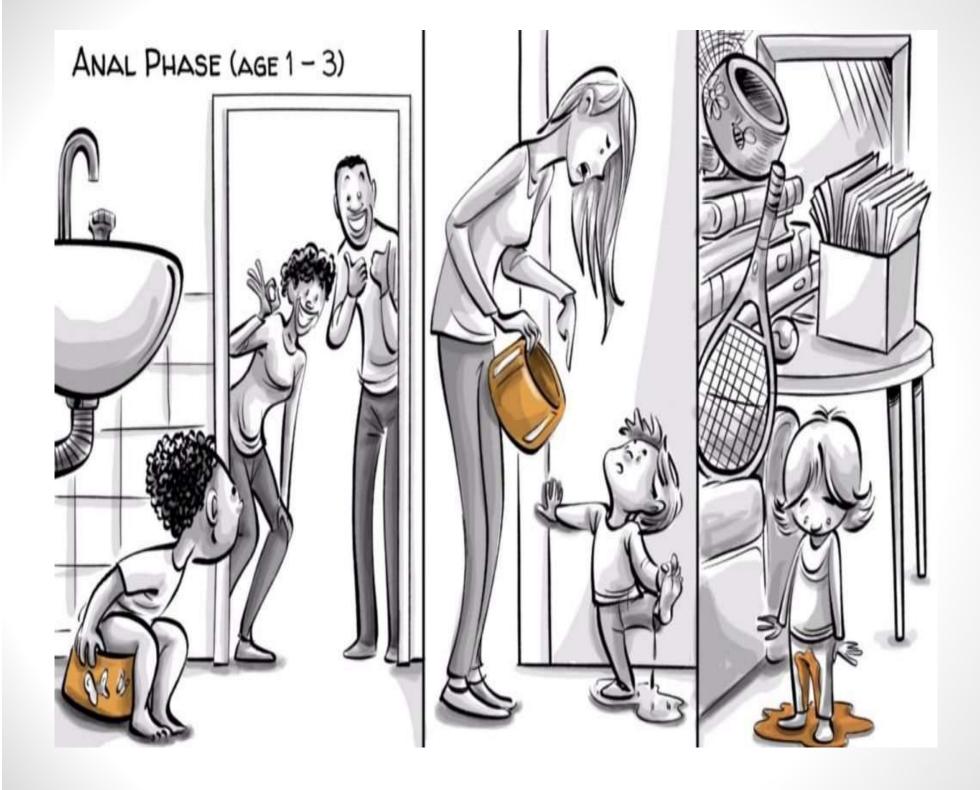
I. Oral Stage

- It occurs during the first 18 months of life when the infant's pleasure centers on the mouth.
- Chewing, sucking and biting are chief sources of pleasure and these actions reduces tension in the infant.



Oral

- The infant is entirely dependent upon caretakers (who are responsible for feeding the child), the infant also develops a sense of trust and comfort through this oral stimulation.
- If fixation occurs at this stage, Freud believed the individual would have issues with dependency or aggression. Oral fixation can result in problems with drinking, eating, smoking, or nail biting.
- This stage lasts one and one-half years.



II. Anal Stage

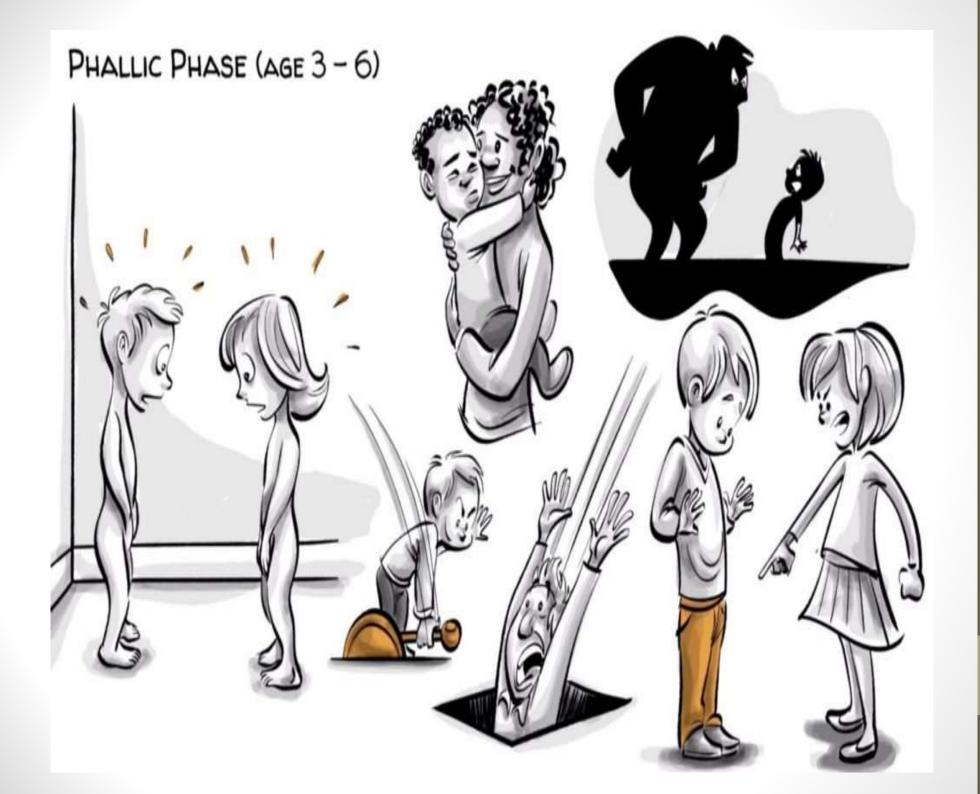
 It is the second stage of development that occurs between 1 ½ until 3 years of age, in which the child's greatest pleasure involves the anus or the eliminative functions associated with it.



II. Anal Stage

- In Freud's view, the exercise of anal muscles reduces tension.
- During the <u>anal stage</u>, Freud believed that the primary focus of the <u>libido</u> was on controlling bladder and bowel movements.





III. Phallic Stage

- It occurs between the ages of 36.
- The word "phallic" comes the Latin word "phallus," which means "penis."
- During this stage, pleasure focuses on the genitals as the child discovers that selfstimulation is enjoyable.



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Phallic

- During the <u>phallic stage</u>, the primary focus of the libido is on the genitals. At this age, children also begin to discover the differences between males and females.
- Freud also believed that boys begin to view their fathers as a rival for the mother's affections. The Oedipus complex describes these feelings of wanting to possess the mother and the desire to replace the father.
- The term <u>Electra complex</u> has been used to described a similar set of feelings experienced by young girls

Importance of Phallic Stage

 Freud believed that penis envy was never fully resolved and that all women remain somewhat fixated on this stage.

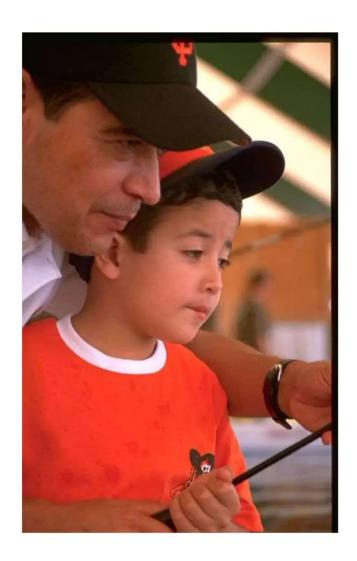
 In Freud's view, the phallic stage has a special importance in personality development because this period triggers the Oedipus Complex.

What is the Oedipus Complex?

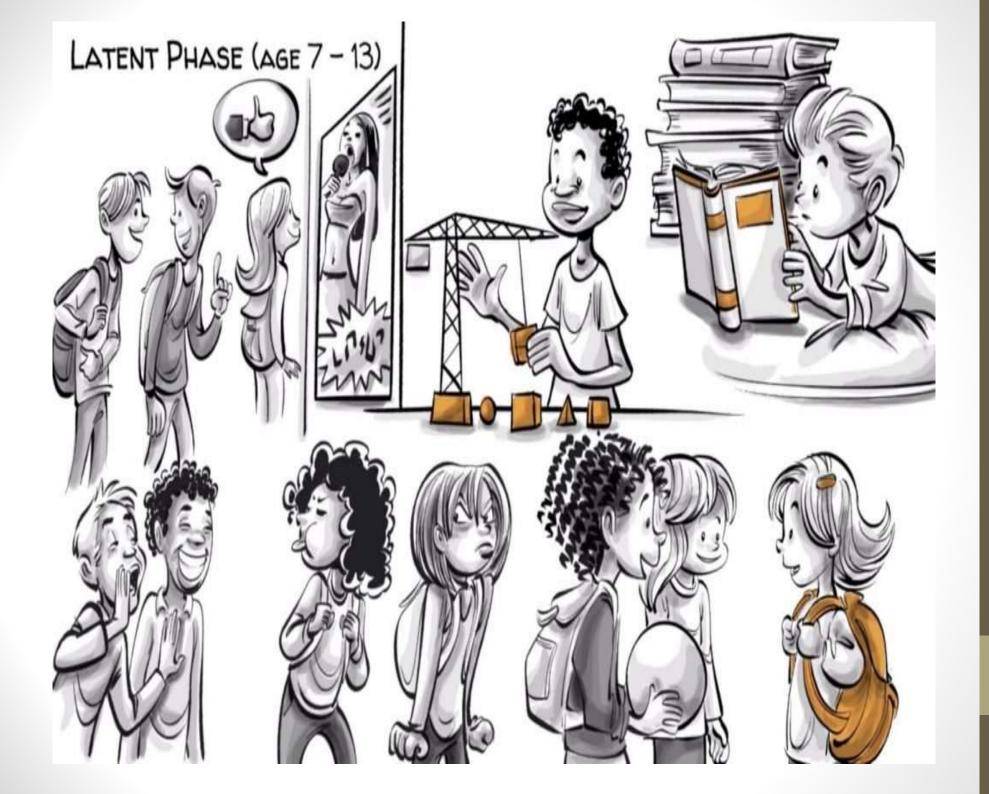
• The Oedipus Complex is the young child's development of an intense desire to replace the parent of the same sex and enjoy the affection of the opposite-sex parent.



Resolving the Oedipus Complex



- At about 5-6 years of age, children recognize that their same-sex parent might punish them for their wishes.
- To reduce the conflict, the child identifies with the samesex parent, striving to be like him/her.
- If the conflict is not resolved, the individual may become fixated at the phallic stage.



IV. Latency Stage

- It occurs at approximately between 6 years of age until puberty.
- At this stage, the child represses all interest in sexuality and develops social and intellectual skills.



IV. Latency Stage

 The pursuit of social and academic activities channels much of the child's energy into emotionally safe areas and aids the child in forgetting the highly stressful conflicts of the phallic stage



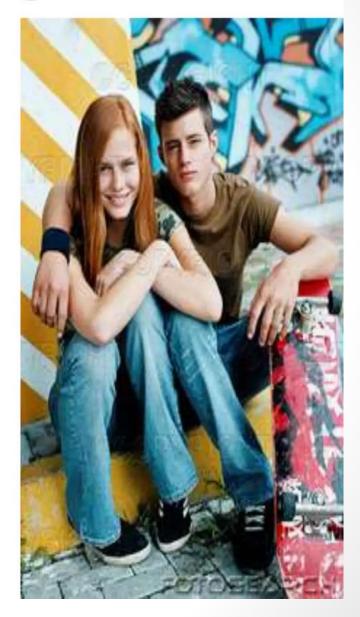
Latent

- During the latent period, the <u>libido</u> interests are suppressed. The development of the <u>ego</u> and <u>superego</u> contribute to this period of calm. The stage begins around the time that children enter into school and become more concerned with peer relationships, hobbies, and other interests.
- The latent period is a time of exploration in which the sexual energy is still present, but it is directed into other areas such as intellectual pursuits and social interactions.
- This stage is important in the development of social and communication skills and self-confidence.



V. Genital Stage

- The final stage of psychosexual development occurs from puberty onwards.
- It is the time of sexual reawakening, but the source of sexual pleasure now becomes someone outside the family.



Genital stage

Freud believed that unresolved conflicts • with parents re emerged during adolescence.

Once resolved, freud believed that the • individual capable of developing a mature love relationship and functioning independently as an adult.

Genital

- In the genital stage, as a child's energy once again focuses on his genitals, interest turns to heterosexual relationships.
- During the final stage of psychosexual development, the individual develops a strong sexual interest in the opposite sex. This stage begins during puberty but last throughout the rest of a person's life.
- Where in earlier stages the focus was solely on individual needs, interest in the welfare of others grows during this stage. If the other stages have been completed successfully, the individual should now be well-balanced, warm, and caring.
- The goal of this stage is to establish a balance between the various life areas.

Sigmund Shlomo Freud was an Austrian • neurologist and the founder of Psychoanalysis. Freud theorized that the unconscious would remember and store all our experiences, later they pop up from time to time through dreams and associative thoughts. By revealing traumatic memories and desires through conversation we can free ourselves from our neuroses and live a more healthy and fulfilled life.

He recommended: "We should not strive to • eliminate our complexes but to get into accord with them: they are legitimately what directs our conduct in the world."

