

NEHIKHARE OSAGIE UWENBOR
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY
AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY, EKPOMA
200 LEVEL

THE ORIGIN OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION
AN ANALYSIS OF FREUDIAN THEORY

Freud's concept of sexual instinct is much broader than the usual one. It includes not only the expenditure of energy for pleasurable activities involving genital stimulation and manipulation, but it also embraces the manipulation of other bodily zones for pleasure as well. A region of the body where irritating excitatory processes (tensions) tend to become focalized and whose tensions can be removed by some action upon the region, such as sucking or stroking, is called an erogenous zone. Manipulation of an erogenous zone is satisfying because it affords relief from irritation as scratching relieves an itching sensation, and because it induces a pleasurable sensual feeling.

The three principal erogenous zones are the mouth, the anus and the genital organs, although any part of the body surface may become an excitatory centre demanding relief and providing pleasure.

The Sexual Zone

The period of growth during which the child is preoccupied with his genitals is called the Phallic Stage. Because the reproductive organs of the male and female are structurally different, it is necessary to discuss the events of the phallic stage for the two sexes separately.

i. **The Male Phallic Stage:** Prior to the emergence of the phallic period, the boy loves his mother and identifies with his father. When the sexual urge increases, the boy's love for his mother becomes more incestuous and as a result, he becomes jealous of his rival the father. This state of affairs in which the boy craves exclusive sexual possession of the mother and feels antagonistic towards the father is called the Oedipus - complex. Oedipus was a prominent figure in Greek mythology who killed his father and married his mother. The development of Oedipus complex creates a new danger for the boy. If he persists in feeling sexually attracted to the mother, he runs the risk of being physically harmed by the father. The specific fear which the boy harbors is that his father will remove the offending sex organ of the boy, this fear is called Castration.

This fear is brought home to the boy when he sees the sexual anatomy of the girl, which is lacking the protruding genitals of the male. The girl appears castrated to the boy. If that could happen to her, it could also happen to me." Is what he thinks.

As a result of castration anxiety, the boy represses his incestuous desire for the mother and his hostility for the father, and Oedipus complex disappears. Other factors also conspire to weaken the Oedipus complex. These are (1) The impossibility of fulfilling the sexual wish for the mother, as Oedipus did, (2) disappointments from the mother, and (3) maturation. For a period of years, roughly between the ages of five, when the Oedipus complex is repressed by fear of castration, and twelve. When the energy of the sexual instinct is greatly augmented by physiological changes in the reproductive system, the sexual and aggressive impulses of the child are in a subdued state. This is called the latency period. With the onset of puberty, the impulses are revived and occasion the typical stresses and strains of Adolescence. New Adaptations and transformations takes place during these Adolescent years which culminate finally in the stability of the personality.

ii. **The Female Phallic Stage:** as with the boy, the girl's first love object. Apart from her own body (narcissism), is the mother but unlike the case of the boy, this is not likely to be an early identification with the father. When the girl discovers that she does possess the noticeable external genitals of the male. She feels castrated. She blames the mother for this condition and the cathexis for the mother, is thereby weakened. She feels the mother is not giving her enough love or that she has to share the mother's love with brothers and sisters. As the cathexis for the mother weakens the girl, begins to prefer the father. Who has the organ she is missing. The girl's love for the father is mixed with envy because he possesses something that she does not have. This is known as penis envy. It is the feminine counterpart of the boy's castration anxiety. She loves her father and is jealous of her mother. The female Oedipus complex becomes weaker by virtue of maturation and the impossibility of possessing the father. Identifications then take the place of object - cathexes

Like the boy, the girl is also bisexual and the strength of the identification with each parent is determined in part by the relative strength of the masculine and feminine predispositions of the girl. If the masculine component is strong, the girl will identify more with her father and become a tomboy.

If the feminine impulses predominate, the girl will identify more closely to the mother.

The girl's emulations of the mother brings her closer to the father and also compensate for the lost love relationship between mother. Likewise her identifications with the father compensate to some extent for the missing genitals and preserve the cathexis for the mother. This strength and success of this identification influence the nature of her attachments, hostilities, and the degree of Masculinity and femininity in later life, as well as producing the super ego.

The girl also has a lately period, when the impulses are under the domination of reaction formations.

She emerges from latency at puberty. She too works through the problems of Adolescence and finally achieves some measure of stability as an adult.

REFERENCES

FREUD, SIGMUND. (1921.) Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego, Chap. VII. London: The Hogarth Press, 1948

FREUD, SIGMUND. (1923.) The Ego and the Id, Chap. III. London: The Hogarth Press, 1947.

FREUD SIGMUND. (1923.) New Introductory lectures on Psycho - analysis, Chap. 3. New York: W. W. Norton & company, Inc., 1933.

FREUD, SIGMUND. (1910) Leonardo da vinci: A study in Psycho - sexuality, New York: Randon House, Inc., 1947.

FREUD, SIGMUND. (1931) "Female sexuality" in collected papers vol. V, pp. 252 - 72. London: The Hogarth press, 1950.

FREUD SIGMUND. (1923) "The infantile Genital organization of the libido." In collected papers vol. II, pp. 244 - 49.