

1 Socialization: Infancy to old age

Socialization: The lifelong social experience by which individuals develop their human potential and learn culture.

Social experience is also the basis (foundation) of personality.

A person's fairly consistent patterns of acting, thinking and feeling.

2 Nature vs. Nurture

- Modern sociologists view Nurture as much more important than Nature in shaping human behavior.
- Social Isolation: Research on the effects of SI has demonstrated the importance of socialization. **All** evidence points to the crucial role of social development in forming personality.
 - Ex: Harlow/ Harlow w/Rhesus monkeys
 - Isolated children

3 Six perspectives on Socialization

Freud: The elements of Personality

Three basic components:

- Id: basic human drives/ desires
- Superego: operation or influence of culture on the individual.
- Ego: the balancing of the two

4 Socialization-con't

Freud- con't

These are shaped by the two opposing forces of **eros** (the life instinct) and **thanatos** (the death instinct)

-We internalize norms based on lasting memories of childhood experiences, which is critical in building personality during the socialization process.

5

- Freudian beliefs are strongly viewed with a jaundiced eye. They are generally discredited because of a perceived sexist bias.
- Sees humans as passively being pulled by the conflict between Nature/ Nurture.

6 Socialization- con't

■ Piaget: Cognitive Development

Four identified stages of cognitive development.

1) Sensorimotor stage: Humans develop through experience of the world **only** through sensory contact.

7 Socialization-con't

2) Preoperational stage: Humans begin to use language and symbols (basic) in their development.

3) Concrete operational stage: Human development is centered around the first perceptions of causal connections around them.

8 **Socialization- con't**

4) Formal operational stage: Human development in which individuals think abstractly and critically.

-Humans ability to shape their world, unfolds gradually as a result of both biological maturation and social experience.

-Piaget sees both Nature and Nurture having an effect on humans as they actively engage the world around them and mature.

9 **Socialization- con't**

Kohlberg: Moral Development

- Built on Piaget's work to refine moral reasoning. (the judgement of right/wrong)

10 **Socialization- con't**

■ Three stages of moral development:

- Preconventional- rightness is what feels good to me.
- Conventional- people shed some selfishness, and define right/wrong by what pleases others who are important.
- Postconventional- leave behind society's norms, consider abstract ethical problems
- Ex: Freedom, liberty, justice

11 **Socialization- con't**

Gilligan: The Gender factor

- Boys moral development reflects a justice model which stresses formal rules.
- Girls put more emphasis on caring and responsibility, and less on the rules.

12 **Socialization- con't**

Mead: The Social self

■ Self is a dimension of personality made up of Self-awareness and Self-image.

- Develops only from social experience
- Which in turn is based on the exchange of symbols with others
- To understand intention, you must imagine a situation from the other's point of view

13 **Socialization- con't**

■ The I and the Me: we become self aware by taking the role of another.

■ The I is active and spontaneous (subject)

■ The Me is how others view us (object)

■ Cooley referred to this as the looking-glass self (image based on how we think others see us)

14 **Socialization- con't**

Self develops through stages:

- Imitation: children take roles of significant others
- Games: children take the roles of several other people at the same time

-the acquisition of generalized, defined widespread cultural norms and values which we use as references for evaluating ourselves

**Mead showed that symbolic interaction is the foundation of both self and society. He is criticized for ignoring Nature in the development of self.

15 Socialization- con't

■ Erikson: Eight stages of development

- Stage 1: Infancy (developing trust/mistrust)

- Stage 2: Toddlerhood (autonomy vs. doubt and shame)
- Stage 3: Preschool (initiative vs. guilt)

16 Socialization- con't

■ Erikson-con't

- Stage 4: Preadolescence (industriousness vs. inferiority)
- Stage 5: Adolescence (gaining identity vs. confusion)
- Stage 6: Young adulthood (intimacy vs. isolation)

17 Socialization- con't

■ Erikson- con't

- Stage 7: Middle adulthood (making a difference vs. self-absorption)
- Stage 8: Old age (integrity vs. despair)

Erikson's theory views personality formation as a lifelong process. Not everyone confronts these challenges in this exact order, nor will failure at an early stage mean failure at any later stage.

18 Socialization- con't

■ Agents of socialization:

- Family
- School
- Peers
- Mass media

19 Socialization- con't

■ And the life course: Society organizes human experience according to age.

- Childhood: became an increasingly separate phase of life with industrialization; it is currently becoming shorter

- Adolescence: a period of social and emotional turmoil reflecting cultural inconsistency. Time of social contradictions when people are no longer children, but not yet adults

20 Socialization- con't

■ Life course- con't

- Adulthood: divided into several stages;
 - Early adulthood involves working toward goals set earlier in life.
 - Middle adulthood is characterized by greater reflectiveness.

21 Socialization- con't

■ Life course- con't

- Old Age: begins in the mid-sixties;
 - Aging and Biology: most of these changes are viewed negatively by American culture, most not disabled, also includes some psychological changes.
 - Aging and Culture: preindustrial vs. industrial society

22 Socialization- con't

■ Life course- con't

- Death and Dying: 5 stages of acceptance of death (Kubler-Ross)
 - Denial
 - Anger
 - Negotiation
 - Resignation
 - Acceptance

23 The Life course

Although linked to the biological process of aging, each stage is socially constructed. General patterns relating to age are modified by social variables. (race/gender) Life experiences also depend on when a person was born.

24 Resocialization: Total institutions

Total institutions are setting in which people are isolated from society and manipulated by an administrative staff.

Resocialization: radically altering an inmate's personality through deliberate control of the environment.

- First: breakdown the personality
- Second: build a new personality