

Freud's Three Essays

Freud's remarks that "the neuroses are the negative of perversions" has been in many times interpreted to mean that perversion is simply a direct expression of a natural instinct normally repressed in neurosis. The remarks by Freud can also simply be interpreted in another way for an easier understanding that perversion is structured in an inverse manner to neurosis; however, it is equally structured. Whilst neurosis is categorized by a question; perversion is by lack of a question. In this case, the pervert does not doubt that in any case, his/her acts are not simply and purely the satisfaction of a specific need, but as a satisfaction of a certain drive. From Freud's work, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, a large part of his opposition to the views regarding neurosis and perversion, hence his statement "neuroses are the negative of perversions," arises because of the fact that sexuality, something to which Freud traces back psychoneurotic symptoms, is thought that it is due to the sexual instincts that are regarded normal (Freud 165). However, Freud states that psycho-analytic teachings go even further, showing that by no means it is at the cost of normal sexual instincts that the symptoms appear. Freud states that they provide expression through conversion to instincts described as perverse.

As stated in Freud's *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, psychoneurotic's sexual instincts show aberrations considered as a variation of normal, as well as manifestation of an abnormal sexual life. To support this, first, it is stated that the unconscious mental life of neurotics, without any exception, depict inverted impulses, that is, fixations of their libido on individuals of the same sex. It would not be possible without proper discussion to provide an adequate appreciation of the benefits of this factor in the determination of the form taken by the illnesses' symptoms. Second, it is stated that it is possible to trace psycho-neurotics tendencies' unconsciousness to diverse kinds of anatomical extensions of sexual activity and to portray that these tendencies are all factors in symptoms formation. Third, a prominent section is played as a factor in the formation of symptoms specifically in psychoneuroses by

the component instincts which have emerged for opposite pairs which are the scopophilic instincts and exhibitionism as well as the passive and active forms of the cruelty instincts (Freud 166). The contributions made by Freud's essentials to the understanding of facts that symptoms usually involve suffering, and it is also almost habitually controlling a significant part of the social behaviour of a patient.

Summarizing Freud's findings, it can be noticed that it all began from sexual instincts deviations of whether they come from an innate disposition or are retrieved due to life experiences. An answer was arrived at from psycho-analytic investigations of the works of sexual instincts, more specifically in psychoneurotics which involves a numerous class of individuals and not one that is far taken out from the healthy. It was realized that in them, the tendencies to all the kinds of perversions could be depicted to exist as forces that are unconscious and betray their presence as factors that lead to the formation of symptoms, as stated above. Due to this, it was thus a possibility to claim that neurosis is a negative perversion hence Freud's statement as earlier stated (Freud 235). In view of this, Freud's research led to the conclusion that a disposition to perversions is a universal and original disposition of the human's sexual instinct and that the normal sexual behaviours are all developed out of this finding because of physical inhibitions and organic changes.

It is factual that Freud's theory of sexuality, as well as its aberrations, assists people in the understanding of several aspects of the sexual lives of adult human beings hence being an important concept. Discussed in this section will be his opinions on homosexuality. Most of his findings regarding homosexuality were derived from sexologists, psychiatrists, and also endocrinologists. His views on homosexuality ascribed both psychological and biological factors for the explanation of the principal causes of homosexuality. He believed that humans are usually born with sexual libidinal drives which are unfocused and thus argued that

homosexuality might be some kind of deviation from this. From his *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, Freud believed that humans were all bisexual, which meant that all people have aspects of both sexes and that all people are sexually attracted to both sexes in some kind of way, especially when they are born. In this view, it was proven that Freud's view was true anatomically and factual psychologically as well as mentally. This means that homosexuality and heterosexuality are both developed from this bisexual disposition, as presented by Freud (Freud 210). As one of the things that lead to homosexuality, he mentions a distressing heterosexual experience, those instances that are of a particular interest in which the person's libido changes to an inverted sexual object, especially after a distressing experience with the normal. In conclusion, Freud believed that homosexuals could seldom be convinced that sex with people of the opposite sex would give them the same sexual pleasure that they get with individuals of the same sex.

Work Cited

Freud, Sigmund. "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality (1905)." *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume VII (1901-1905): A Case of Hysteria, Three Essays on Sexuality and other Works*. 1953. 123-246.