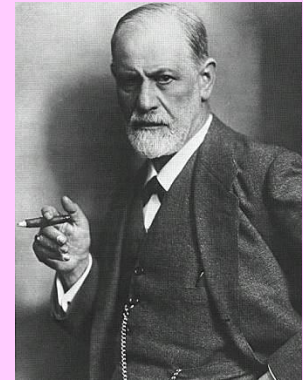


DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY



Core Studies

- Samuel & Bryant: Cognitive Development
- Bandura: Learned Aggression
- Freud: Phobia of a 5 year old



ASSUMPTIONS of Developmental Psychology

- Assumes that development is an **on-going process** over a person's lifetime
- Changes occur as children & adults develop as a result of inherited factors (genetics) or environmental factors. **Nature-Nurture debate** is a key issue

STRENGTHS 1

- Demonstrates the influence on behaviour of internal and environmental factors. Eg:
- Samuel & Bryant referred to the role of maturation (Piaget) - an internal factor in cognitive development. Eg; ability to conserve improved with age. However, a supportive environment is required to enable this development.
- Longitudinal Studies provide rich data & allows study of an individual over time. Eg:
- Freud studied Hans over a period of time to get a full picture of his experiences contributing to his phobia of horses.

STRENGTHS 2

- Usefulness: understanding the psychological development of children has influenced practices for their cognitive & emotional well-being. Eg:
 - Bandura's study into SLT and how aggression can be imitated has led to debate about media influences on children's behaviour.
- Recognises a number of perspectives in the development of children: cognitive, social, and emotional. Eg:
 - Samuel & Bryant....

WEAKNESSES 1

- Ethical concerns such as lack of informed consent and vulnerability to harm or distress.
Eg:
- Bandura's study does not appear to obtain parental consent and exposes children to aggressive behaviour, and deliberate upset in stage 2 of the procedure.
- When children are studied over a long period of time researchers may be more subjective.
Eg;
- In Freud's study of Hans, interviews and conversations were interpreted according to Freud's psychosexual theory of developmental and leading questions were used resulting in researcher bias.

WEAKNESSES 2

- Problems of studying children under laboratory conditions, where they are tested by strangers in strange environments. This can result in a lack of **ecological validity**. Eg:
 - Bandura:
 - Samuel & Bryant:
 - Difficult to replicate longitudinal studies. These can be time-consuming and expensive: Eg:
 - Freud:

ISSUES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

- **Nature-Nurture Debate**: concerned with how far development is influenced by innate factors or environmental factors. Eg:
 - Bandura: learning (nurture)
 - Freud....?
 - Samuel & Bryant (Piaget)...?
 - **Psychodynamic Approach**
 - **Behaviourist Approach**

