Assignment 2: Case Studies 3 and 4

Psy 340 – Personality

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Case Study 3

Application Questions

1. What is Bob’s Attitude according to Jungian Theory? Provide evidence for your answer.
   1. Extraversion 🡪 Bob seeks enjoyment and pleasure by helping others. In Jung’s point of view, Bob seeks pleasure and enjoyment from outside objects (objects being people), not from the subject (subject being one’s self). This can be seen in the case study when Bob states how he enjoys helping others and speaking with them because it makes him feel like he is helping them in a way that others cannot do.
2. What is Bob’s superior function according to Jungian theory? Provide evidence for your answer.
   1. Bob’s dominant function would likely be “Sensing.” This is not simply because Bob “senses” the presence of the deceased around him, but because of the definition of Jung’s idea of sensing: “the initial, concrete experiencing of phenomena without the use of reason or evaluation.” Bob’s first thought about the seizures was that it was “a gift from the other side” and “a way to contact spirits.” He did not use any reason or logic to interpret the seizures, but instead jumped to his own conclusions.
3. What are archetypes? In what level of consciousness are they contained, according to Jung’s theory? What archetype has Bob been influenced by? Provide evidence for your answer. How does it influence his behavior?
   1. Archetypes are themes that exist in all cultures, and they are rooted within the entire psyche (primarily in the consciousness and the collective unconsciousness), according to Jung. Bob has likely been influenced primarily by “The Self.” The reason for this statement is because the self archetype is characterized by realizing a destiny through a process called individuation, which is when a person becomes the definite, unique being that he in fact is. According to Bob, he sees himself as a psychic, and firmly believes that that was a gift instilled on him and must use it to help others. It is his gift, his ability, and his self that he must use to help others in his life. Therefore, because he has realized what he believes to be his destiny, it is safe to say that the archetype that governs Bob’s life is the self.
4. At what stage is Bob presently, according to Jungian theory? What types of events should he be experiencing at this stage? Is there evidence for these experiences in the case study? Explain.
   1. Bob is 56 years old, meaning, according to Jung, he is in the Middle Life stage about to enter Old Age. At this moment, Bob has reached self-realization in the sense that, in his mind, he knows and understands what he is supposed to do with his life – being a medium between the living world and the spirit world. Because of this, even though the stage does not start until generally age 60, Bob would be classified as being in the stage of Old Age (classified by self-realization and no longer fearing death, which Bob no longer fears).

Theory Comparison Questions

1. At what stage of development would Erikson place Bob? Why? How do Erikson’s psychosocial stages differ from Jung’s stages of development?
   1. Erikson would likely place Bob in the stage of “Generativity vs. Stagnation,” which is between ages 25-64. This is the stage where people try to “make their life count,” meaning they need to give their life meaning in order to obtain gratification. This statement is due to the fact that Bob is trying to make his life have meaning by helping other people with his special abilities, thus placing him in the “Generativity vs. Stagnation” stage. This is similar to Jung’s “Old Age” stage of development because both deal with making one’s life worth something and giving it meaning. Erikson’s theories just go deeper into detail about the conflict that occurs at that stage.
2. How do Fromm’s concepts of the existential dilemmas explain Bob’s experiences with mysticism? Compare this concept with Jung’s archetypes.
   1. One of Fromm’s existential dilemmas in particular that relates to Bob currently is the dilemma of unity, which deals with a sense of individuality with themselves and the outside world, and is characterized by putting one’s energy into an all-consuming passion for something in particular (in this case, Bob’s passion for his unique gift). This is similar to Jung’s idea of the self because in Jung’s idea of the self, you try to obtain a sense of true identity and individuality through realizing your personal destiny. So both ideas deal with achieving individuality by achieving your personal goals or destinies.

Case Study 4

Application Questions

1. What is Mark’s attitude, according to Jungian theory? Provide evidence for your answer.
   1. Extroversion 🡪 According to the case study, Mark is “outgoing and happy. He loves life and lives it to its fullest. He isn’t an introspective person.” This being said, it is clear that Mark seeks pleasure from the external world as opposed from inside himself (as an introverted person would).
2. What is Mark’s superior function, according to Jungian theory? Provide evidence for your answer.
   1. Thinking 🡪 The key characteristic of thinking is to be able to take experiences and understand them through the use of reason and logic. The reason Mark falls into this category is because he is able to analyze situations and produce the optimized option for the situation. For example, according to one of Mark’s friends, Mark is “always able to adapt rescue techniques to the situation as necessary.” In order to do this, Mark must analyze the situation at hand and think about the safest way to carry out the task at hand.
3. According to Jung’s theory, what archetype has March been influenced by? How do you know this? How does this influence his behavior? Is Mark aware of its influence? Explain.
   1. Mark is likely influenced the most by the archetype of Persona. This is because Mark has always wanted to be a hero type character in real life. This is suggested when as a kid, he always played superhero games where he was the hero character. Therefore, when he grew up, the persona archetype caused him to become a real-life hero as a firefighter.
   2. Mark is absolutely aware of this influence because for one, the persona archetype is located in the person’s consciousness, so he is actively aware of it that way. Also, Mark states that he is aware of his status as a “hero-type character” and that the praise makes him feel good and accomplished about himself.
4. At what stage is Mark presently, according to Jung’s theory? Specify substage, if appropriate. What types of events could be occurring at this stage?
   1. Even though Mark is 28 years old, his actions suggest he is still in the Childhood stage of development. There are 2 substages of the childhood stage – Mark likely falls into the monarchaic stage of childhood development. This is because while Mark is always thrill-seeking, he shows the development of logical and abstract thinking (made clear by his ability to think strategically about different fire situations), and his actions do not reflect those of someone who has entered the adult stages or even the youth stage. He seems to have no desire of finding a sexual partner or even starting a family (characteristics of youth stage), and he has not developed any introverted tendencies as a result of realizing his own mortality (characteristic of middle age adulthood). It is as if he has fixated in the childhood stage of development.
5. At what stage in Jungian theory, was Mark when he was pretending to be a superhero? Specify substage if appropriate.
   1. He was likely in the archaic substage of the childhood stage, which is characterized by sporadic consciousness (i.e. constant pretending).

Theory Comparison Questions

1. Use another theory, besides Jung’s to explain Mark’s career choice.

How could environmental factors, such as reinforcement and punishment, explain Mark’s career choice? What are some reinforcements that encourage this behavior? How is the focus of this explanation different than that of Jung’s theory in explaining Mark’s career choice?

1. If we look at Mark’s childhood, we can see how it was possible that he was innately set up to become a fire fighter. Freud would view his childhood experiences as the primary reason: his favorite games as a child were games where he was the hero rescuing someone. This means that Mark was likely already predestined to obtain a career in helping others (like a firefighter or police officer). Also, the fact that Mark had an issue with his environment being “too quiet” and, as a result, gravitated to noisy activities (such as using pots and pans to make music). This inability to deal with quiet and stagnant environments means that he is likely not going to be a police officer, meaning the only other viable options in the service business would be firefighting because it allows him to help others (i.e. be a superhero) and it is also a loud, dynamic environment. Ergo, according to Freud, he innately learned to enjoy that type of environment as a child and, as a result, lead to him working in that type of field as an adult.
2. Also, Freud would likely state that Mark is fixated in the phallic stage of development. This is because he is constantly trying to be a hero and [unconsciously] prove that he is manly. He states that he is aware of his actions and that he does it because it makes him feel good being a hero (his stated motives), but Freud would look at this as him trying to rationalize his true unconscious motives, which are that he is trying to prove that he is a man and deserves to be looked up to because of his manliness.
3. As far as reinforcing Mark’s behavior, all of the thanks and praise that he receives from those around him reinforce his behavior of being a manly man, thus also reinforcing his unconscious beliefs (according to Freud) that he needs thanks and praise in order to be a true man – deeper rooting the fixation in the phallic stage of psychosexual development.
4. How could Eysenck’s concept of extraversion explain Mark’s career choice? What other behaviors could this concept explain?
   1. Eysenck’s concept of extraversion states that someone is outgoing and sociable/interactive with other people. His idea of extraversion also deals with liveliness and excitability, two traits which are ever-present in firefighting. This being said, as Mark grew up with such extroverted qualities, he was naturally gravitated towards a firefighting environment. His concept of extraversion can also explain other of Mark’s behaviors, such as his constant desire to be up and moving (such as why he decided to renovate the kitchen of the fire station during his free time).