Chapter 14
THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

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Question: What are the main features and limitations of the trait theory of personality?

TRAIT THEORY OF PERSONALITY

Main features:

- Focus on cataloging traits
- Examining where traits come from
- Which traits are predominant

Limitations:

- Pigeonholing people according to oversimplified characteristics

Question: What impact has the psychoanalytic theory of personality had, and how has the theory been modified since Freud's time?

IMPACT AND MODIFICATION OF THE PSYCHOANALYTIC THEORY

- Freud has had a number of intellectual heirs and his ideas have strongly influenced psychology
- Freud was an important champion of the idea that human personality and behavior should be subject to scientific knowledge
- Later practitioners of psychoanalysis placed less emphasis on unconscious motives and more emphasis on social relationships

Question: What do learning theorists believe are the influences on and motivations for behavior?

INFLUENCES AND MOTIVATIONS FOR BEHAVIOR

- *James B. Watson* claimed that external forces or influences shape people's behavior

- Learning theorists also emphasized socialization in shaping behavior

Question: How does the humanistic approach view the role of the self and free choice in shaping behavior?

SELF AND FREE CHOICE IN BEHAVIOR

- Humanists believe that people have the freedom (to some degree) to create their own personalities

- Focuses on conscious experience

Question: How does the sociocultural approach view the importance of ethnicity, gender, culture, and socioeconomic status in the development of personality?

EVALUATION OF THE SOCIOCULTURAL APPROACH

- Sociocultural factors of ethnicity, gender, culture and socioeconomic status are internalized and affect all of us and touch many aspects of personality

- Without reference to sociocultural factors we cannot understand how individuals think, behave, and feel about themselves within a given cultural setting

Question: What are the different approaches to trait theory?

The Trait Approach

Hippocrates   Gordon Allport
Hans Eysenck

Five-Factor Model