

View of Borderline in Schools of Psychology

Psychoanalysis and Ego Psychology view

etiology

- primitive trauma resulting in not enough differentiation between psyche and soma, and failure of fusion between ego and id
- therefore developmental arrest at borderline level of psyche organization
- preventing adequate development to the depressive position and making the early oedipal situation impossible

treatment

- borderlines are untreatable because they are “unanalyzable”
- unanalyzable because pathology exists in preverbal, preoedipal territory of psyche

Object relations view

etiology

- premature disruption in the symbiotic union with mother causes developmental arrest which results in failure to differentiate
- such enfeeblement of self leaves patient dependant on a symbiotic merge state with caregiver for cohesion

defenses

- splitting and the resultant idealization and devaluation within relationships
- projection and projective identification

treatment

- focus is on
 - the transference that develops around the patient’s experience of separateness
- vehicle for change
 - the therapeutic relationship
- methodology
 - phase appropriate empathic responsiveness by therapist embedded in a matrix of idealizing and demonizing, valuing and devaluing
 - therapist functions as an auxiliary ego for the patient, thereby controlling frustration tolerance, ego boundaries, reality perception, and impulse controls
- goal
 - developmental achievement of differentiation phase of separation-individuation

Self Psychology view

etiology

- empathic failure on the part of early caregivers results in failure to form a nuclear self

- such enfeeblement of self leaves the patient dependent on a merged relational state with caregiver for cohesion
 - when threatened with fragmentation from fissures in close relationships, react with panic and rage
- defenses
- splitting and the resultant idealization and devaluation within relationships
 - projection and projective identification
- treatment
- focus is on
 - the transference that develops around the patient's striving for independence
 - vehicle for change
 - the therapeutic relationship
 - methodology
 - phase appropriate empathic responsiveness by therapist
 - embedded in a matrix of idealizing, mirroring, and alter ego transferences
 - goal
 - developmental achievement of a nuclear self

Cognitive Behavioral view

- etiology
- mental state
- treatment
- vehicle for change
 - learning
 - methodology
 - teach skills
 - goal
 - management of thoughts and behaviors

Transpersonal view

- etiology
- premature awakening experience(s) deconstruct ego structures the client was still dependant upon for cohesion of self
 - such enfeeblement of self leaves the patient in a undifferentiated state revealing the borderline level of organization in the psyche
- defenses
- narcissistic aggrandizement
 - aloof withdrawal
- treatment
- focus is on
 - grounding patient in conventional 'reality'
 - vehicle for change
 - the therapeutic relationship

-methodology

-phase appropriate empathic responsiveness and containment by therapist

-goal

-acceptance and ownership of the libinal self

-reestablishment of a coherent sense of ego self