

Essay

Understanding of attachment

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## Abstract

Based on the work of John Bowlby, attachment theory is a psychological, evolutionary, and ethological theory that offers a framework for examining human interpersonal relationships. Bowlby researched a wide range of topics to fully grasp the nature of early attachments, including the fields of ethology, control systems theory, evolutionary biology, object relations theory (psychoanalysis), evolution by natural selection, and cognitive psychology.

Although there were some early publications from 1958 onward, *Attachment and Loss*, published from 1969 to 1982, has the complete theory. Although Bowlby was at first disparaged by the psychoanalytic community and criticized by academic psychologists, since then, the most popular method for analyzing early social development is attachment theory. The main method to understanding early social development is now attachment theory, which has sparked a huge increase in empirical studies on how children build close attachments.

The early emotional bond that develops between a child and a caregiver, as well as how this connection influences self-perception, self-control, and relationships throughout a person's lifetime are all topics covered by attachment theory (Bowlby, 1973, 1977). Early in the 20th century, After finishing medical school, British psychiatrist and psychoanalyst John Bowlby entered practice. In addition to the affectionate the long-term relationship between infants and their caregivers In order to explain the effects that these early "attachment" experiences have on the development of both personality and psychopathology, he drew on a number of other scientific disciplines, such as ethology, cognitive psychology, and developmental psychology. Utilizing concepts from these disciplines

## Introduction

In the last ten years, Bowlby's attachment theory (1973, 1988) has significant ramifications for counseling and psychotherapy, according to researchers. A theory of social connections and affect regulation is attachment theory. People are more likely to form a strong bond and have positive internal self-image models when their caregivers are emotionally present.

difficulty being attached Those who struggle with anxiety could discover that aiming for perfection boosts their chances of winning others' acceptance and love (Wei, Heppner, Russell, & Young, 2006; Wei, Mallinckrodt, Russell, & Abraham, 2004). On the other hand, those who struggle with attachment avoidance might strive for perfection in an effort to bury their unconscious sense of flaws. When someone asks for assistance, they typically want to acquire new strategies to deal with dysfunction in daily life and to alter their dysfunctional or inadequate coping processes. However, concentrating only on eliminating ineffective coping strategies does not ensure that individuals will eventually be able to cope successfully.

Bowlby sought out new knowledge in a variety of disciplines, including His groundbreaking Evolutionary biology, ethology, developmental psychology, cognitive science, and control systems theory were all brought together by the hypothesis that the processes behind an infant's relationship developed as a result of evolutionary pressure. He came to understand that in place of Freud's antiquated psychic energy theory, It was important to develop a fresh theory of behaviour regulation and motivation grounded in modern science. In his subsequent work, "Attachment and Loss," which was published between 1969 and 1980, Bowlby claimed to have corrected the "deficiencies of the data and the lack of theory to link supposed cause and effect" in "Maternal Care and Mental Health."

First, the underlying dynamics of an individual's emotional troubles and the development of inefficient coping mechanisms are both well understood by means of attachment theory. For instance, those who have attachment anxiety may discover that aiming for excellence boosts their chances of winning the acceptance and affection of others (Wei, Heppner, Russell, & Young, 2006; Wei, Mallinckrodt, Russell, & Abraham, 2004). On the other side, those who struggle with attachment avoidance might aim for perfection in an effort to hide their unconscious perception of flaws. If I'm perfect, no one can hurt me, they might reason (Flett, Hewitt, Oliver, & Macdonald, 2002). Sadly, being perfect is linked to more severe depressed symptoms (e.g., Chang, 2002, Hewitt & Flett, 1991). Potential therapeutic strategies can therefore concentrate on modifying these people's perfectionistic tendencies.

Second, by assisting patients with attachment anxiety and avoidance, therapists can help them find new ways to satisfy their unfulfilled needs. Most people who ask for

help want to alter their dysfunctional or ineffective coping methods and learn new techniques for handling dysfunction in their daily lives. However, concentrating only on changing unhelpful Individuals may not always be able to cope successfully even when they use coping mechanisms. Because they historically helped people satisfy their basic psychological needs, such as connection, competence, and autonomy, people have learned and used dysfunctional strategies.

## **Counselling Theories and Approaches**

Counselling techniques are based on assumptions about how people act and change, rather than on hard data. It can be difficult to state whether counselling approach is superior than another because there are so many factors to take into account when providing counselling. For example, the therapeutic outcomes may differ significantly if we compare the efficacy of two therapists using the same theoretical framework due to differences in the clients' histories and circumstances, differences in the therapists' communication styles, and even differences in the clients' and therapists' moods on the day of the assessment. It is challenging to experimentally explain such differences, making it practically impossible to determine which counselling approach is best. Without such proof, it is up to counsellors to make every effort to make sure the treatment mode(s) they employ are the best suitable for each client's needs. The first step in carrying out that Knowing the models that have proven to be most helpful in actual practise is the task at hand. Fortunately, the constructionist, humanistic, cognitive, behavioral, psychoanalytic, and psychoanalytic-behavioral main theoretical categories encompass almost all of the various individual theoretical models of counselling.

## **Counseling theories**

Six major theories are as follows:

### **Humanistic:**

Humanistic counsellors believe that people already have what they require for that people may live happy, healthy lives and that issues only arise when these resources are insufficient or nonexistent. According to humanistic counsellors, their job is to assist clients in finding and utilising the few resources they currently have to find solutions on their own., as opposed to telling them how to solve their problems.

Some of the most well-liked humanistic counseling modalities at the moment include Gestalt, positive psychology, existential, emotion-focused, and person-centered approaches.

### **Cognitive:**

Cognitive therapy advocates contend that psychological and emotional issues can arise when a person's thinking is misaligned with reality. When problems are solved using this erroneous or "faulty" thinking, the results are understandably flawed. In order to create solutions that truly address their clients' problems, cognitive therapists strive to correct their patients' flawed thought patterns.

### **Behavioral:**

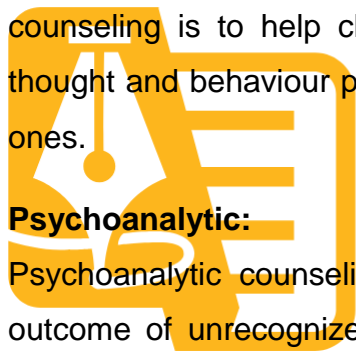
According to theories from behavioural therapy, people engage in problematic thought and behaviour when their surroundings encourage it. If the environment supports or encourages these issues, they will persist. The purpose of behavioural counseling is to help clients identify the reinforcers that are supporting negative thought and behaviour patterns and replace them with reinforcers of more favorable ones.

### **Psychoanalytic:**

Psychoanalytic counseling theories contend that psychological problems are the outcome of unrecognized psychological desires or drives triggered by encounters from the past and present. The dysfunctional thought and behaviour patterns from the clients' past serve as unconscious "working models" for keeping their current thought and behaviour dysfunctional. Psychoanalytic counseling aids clients in becoming aware of these hidden functioning models in order to comprehend and resolve their negative effects.

### **Constructionist:**

Constructionist directing hypotheses hold that information is essentially a made up or "produced" comprehension of genuine occasions. Regardless of whether genuine occasions might hitmen's significance making processes, it is those importance making processes — and not the real occasions — that oversee how individuals feel, think, and act. Constructionist guides cooperate with their clients to look at and reexamine their obsolete thoughts regarding what their identity is, the manner by which they connect with each other, and how the world works. At present, the



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absolute most popular constructionist hypothesis based treatment strategies are women's activist treatment, Eriksonian treatment, arrangement zeroed in short treatment, and character renegotiation advising.

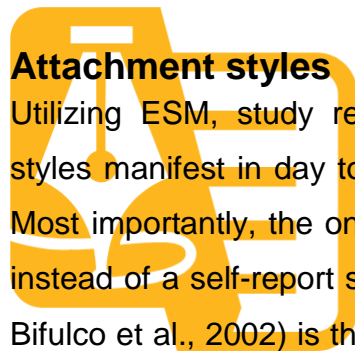
### **Systemic:**

The social effects that people encounter as a result of their surroundings have a considerable impact on one's thinking, feel, and behave, according to systemic counseling theories. Therefore, it is preferable to understand a person's thought, emotion, and behaviour in relation to how they interact with their family or other relevant social networks. The goal of systemic-focused therapists is to change the social network dynamics that support their clients' negative thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. Some of the most widely used therapies in use today include structured family therapy, strategic family therapy, family therapy based on the human validation process, and couples therapy using the Gottman method.

### **Attachment styles**

Utilizing ESM, study researches how secure, restless, and avoidant connection styles manifest in day to day existence. It develops prior research in various ways. Most importantly, the ongoing review utilizes a meeting to decide connection styles instead of a self-report survey. The Strength of the Connection Style Interview (ASCI; Bifulco et al., 2002) is that it utilizes contextualized story and objective guides to find out the individual's ongoing connection style. A semi-organized interview is important for the social brain science way to deal with connection research. Second, this study looks at the outflow of connection styles across members' regular routines indiscriminately times, as opposed to simply during explicit events like social collaborations, and thus, catches a more exhaustive profile of individual climate communications.

Third, this study analyzes how relational associations and the view of social nearness impact how connection designs are appeared in the present. Because of contrasts in connection styles, no past journal studies have taken a gander at the impacts of social contact and social closeness on members' emotional evaluations of themselves (e.g., their survival strategies), their ongoing circumstance (e.g., how distressing it is), or their social working.



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The principal objective of this study was to look at how connection styles connect with proportions of effect, mental assessments (of oneself, others, and the situation), and social working as they show up in day to day existence. As opposed to both unreliable connection gatherings, secure connection was projected to be related with higher evaluations of good effect, confidence, and feeling really focused on as well as with encountering more closeness in friendly connections. With regards to shaky connection, an alternate example was expected for the restless and avoidant styles. In contrast with members with secure connection, members with restless connection were supposed to report more significant levels of pessimistic effect, influence precariousness, emotional pressure, feeling unfit to make due, and saw social dismissal. That's what we anticipated

The ongoing concentrate's subsequent goal was to see if connection styles affected the associations between friendly cooperation and social closeness, momentary effect, social working, and evaluations. It was guessed that avoidant members would encounter social contact with lower levels of positive influence contrasted with their safe companions given the absence of association and profound distance that portray avoidant connection. Considering that one of the most striking qualities of restless individuals is that they pine for closeness yet dread dismissal and relinquishment, it was likewise anticipated that restless members would have more pessimistic effect with individuals they didn't feel near than would the people who had a solid connection.

The client's attachment styles have an impact on the therapeutic alliance and results, and it is well known how important attachment is in therapy. In Emotion Focused Therapy (EFT), therapists organise perspectives in close relationships between oneself and others by focusing on client emotion (Karakurt & Keiley, 2009).

According to Karakurt and Keiley (2009), emotion triggers responses to attachments and attachment types affects emotional responses (Crawley & Grant, 2005). By focusing on the intimacy and trust that are associated with client attachment, emotion-focused therapists help clients recognize and gain control over their emotional reactivity patterns. (Greenberg, 2002).



## Own experience

Distinctive variations in a range of responses and interpersonal behaviors. There were lower levels of satisfaction, intimacy, self-disclosure, and supportive behaviour among those with avoidant attachment styles. and positive feelings, according to research evaluating the quality of relationships compared to the stable attachment style, negative emotions like boredom and stress are more intense (Kafetsios & Nezlek, 2002). People who are insecure (either nervous or avoidant) exhibit more harmful manifestations of rage, hostility, antagonism, vindictive criticism, and malicious revenge. Additionally, avoidant individuals frequently choose to withdraw or exact revenge rather than seek their partner's forgiveness (Mikulincer, Shaver, & Slav, 2006). Both dispositionally and experimentally, higher levels of empathy and compassion toward those who are suffering or being tormented are associated with improved attachment security.

Several theoretical stances that Bowlby included into his theory of attachment are brought to light, including those from ethology, psychoanalysis, systems theory, and cognitive psychology. These stances indicate several Bowlby-proposed processes that are appropriate in the instance of the Phases of sociability, discriminating sociability, and attachment is all stages in the development of a mother's attachment. The impact of object-relations attachment relationships on a child's life is a crucial justification for the attachment theory.

Most attachment theorists acknowledge that culture has an impact on particular attachment patterns, while some of them lean toward seeing culture as a biological factor closely connected to human behaviour. David J. Wallin (2010) views Bowlby's emphasis on the evolutionary need that drives a child's attachment to a parent as his most significant contribution.

Theoretical claims of insecure attachment have received substantial support from research. Insecure attachment as BD antisocial personality to a lesser extent, have received a lot of attention in the literature (Levy, 2005). The relationship between attachment factors and other PDs is less well understood, and the knowledge that does exist frequently contrasts aspects of self-reported adult romantic attachment with the symptoms of other PDs. The relationship between overall personality dysfunction and attachment security has been repeatedly found to be unfavourable

in that literature, However, there is less certainty regarding the relationships between certain PDs and certain insecure attachment types.

Results from report and interview must measures indicate that preoccupied attachment is frequently linked to hysterical, dependent, and avoidant behaviour.

## **Impact and implications**

An integrative framework for predicting and understanding individual behaviour in close adult relationships may be provided by contemporary attachment theory. This talk analyses recent findings from many theory-derived investigations and provides a quick introduction to the idea. The potential contribution of an attachment theory viewpoint on key family dynamics, such as affect and distance control, cognitive processes, dysfunctional family alignments, and intergenerational patterns is investigated in light of these findings.

According to Eagle and Wolitzky (2009), the role of the therapist must secure a place where AT finds the most applicability in psychoanalytic theory. In this role, therapist will help the client undergo the internal structural changes necessary for successful psychoanalysis. From a psychoanalytic standpoint, client problems emerge from internal tensions. Due to the fact that client attachment patterns are adaptive techniques for meeting basic needs, AT can offer light on these conflicts (Eagle & Wolitzky, 2009). The client has internal conflict when they want to communicate their feelings freely but are worried that the attachment figure won't be able to console them (Eagle & Wolitzky, 2009).

Theoretically, AT has significant applications in the context of interpersonal therapy, according to Florsheim and McArthur's 2009 research (IPT). From the standpoint of AT, therapeutic objectives frequently include strengthening attachment security. IPT offers a framework for how to carry out therapy, whereas AT may help to clarify the objectives of therapy. Attachment insecurity is treated by interpersonal therapists by focusing on current relationships and motivating the client to try various security-building techniques.

The chance that a client will leave therapy early may vary depending on their attachment style (Levy & Kelly, 2009), and they may also benefit more from using

particular therapeutic approaches. Clients may require different treatments based on how they relate to others, according to Meyer and Pilkonis (2001). Interventions that encourage emotional expression may be necessary for dismissive clients, whereas preoccupied individuals may not want help managing intense emotions. In a similar vein, Levy and Kelly (2009) proposed that it might be crucial so structure can be preserved in treatment with preoccupied clients; now therapist must move cautiously in work with dismissive clients to avoid encouraging clients to withdraw. By paying attention, therapists can gain knowledge about their patients' interpersonal interactions, the emotions they can handle, and the assistance they need.

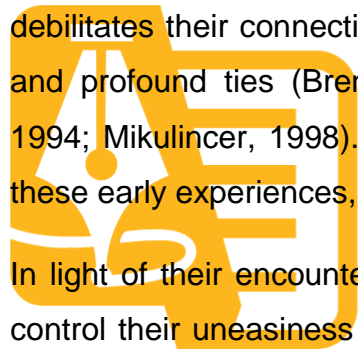
### **Socio political interest**

The study "Adult Attachment Style and Beliefs About Public Affairs and Scientific Issues" examines how American political party affiliation and political beliefs relate to the idea of adult attachment style. The research topic arises from observations that it is difficult to understand disputed problems when partisans on opposite sides define them in words that are so different from one another. People who draw on religious beliefs and people who rely on scientific evidence regularly differ. Attachments could be safe or dangerous. Children who have secure ties grow intellectually, and adults may as well. In over half of the comparisons of belief comparisons, insecure attachment types were associated with conservative, or Republican, beliefs.

The course of connection influences components significant for getting convictions and data. Early associations may establish the ground work for philosophy and partisanship and affect how individuals to get authority and power (Barker and Tinnick, 2006; Feldman and Stenner, 1997; Lakoff, 2002). These impressions can have their foundations in connection. Consideration is being paid to the possibility of grown-up connection since it might have a say in partisanship and philosophy Thornhill and Fincher, 2007; Weber and Federico, 2007; Weise et al., 2008; Dunkel and Decker, 2012; Gillath and Hart, 2010; Koleva and Tear, 2009; Numerous specialists believe that grown-up connection connections are slipped from baby connection connections, notwithstanding the way that hypotheses and evaluations of grown-up connection style and newborn child connection contrast extraordinarily.

Baby connections could be protected or risky (Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, and Wall, 1978; Mikulincer and Shaver, 2003). The capacity of the guardian to give the infant's feelings, uneasiness, and trouble with steady solace and constancy cultivates secure connection, permitting the newborn child to trust the parental figure as a solid groundwork from which to investigate the environmental factors (Ainsworth et al., 1978; Bowlby, 1988). Newborn children are bound to shape unreliable connections in the event that their guardians don't predictably take care of their feelings. They have found that the parental figure's ability to ensure their security and solace differs. They could experience low confidence, a feeling of vulnerability and dread, and an absence of excitement in attempting new things. Their trepidation makes their connection framework become overactive (Ainsworth et al., 1978; Cassidy and Kobak, In additional serious circumstances, where the child discovers that the parental figure is often unfit to offer profound help, the child fosters an uncomfortable, avoidant association. To lessen uneasiness, this young person debilitates their connection framework by keeping away from individual connections and profound ties (Brennan, Clark, and Shaver, 1998; Griffin and Bartholomew, 1994; Mikulincer, 1998). Youngsters pick up "working models" of connections from these early experiences, as indicated by Bowlby's (1969; 1982) hypothesis.

In light of their encounters as youngsters, individuals procure survival strategies to control their uneasiness in friendly collaborations. In any case, they might have the option to adjust these components in response to new encounters in adulthood. Individuals with restless undecided connection styles regularly need to mix in with others out of a separation anxiety. They could be poor, dependent, stressed, and self-basic (Collins and Read, 1990; Mikulincer and Florian, 1998; Simpson et al., 1996). Individuals with avoidant, anxious characters oftentimes look for close to home partition from others. They might put on a front of freedom, be skeptical, critical, and exasperated at apparent insults, and attempt to apply command over others. Individuals who are safely connected show relational trust, resilience, closeness, freedom, and more grounded connections to other people.



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## **Conclusion**

In field of attachment the research has largely ignored the extent to which differences in attachment styles manifest themselves in real time as people navigate their everyday environments. The current study shows that the attachment style construct is still valid in the context of daily life and, in addition, emphasizes the value of using ESM to gain a more detailed understanding of how attachment theory's predictions manifest themselves in the normal course of daily life so it is very useful to get this in a life.



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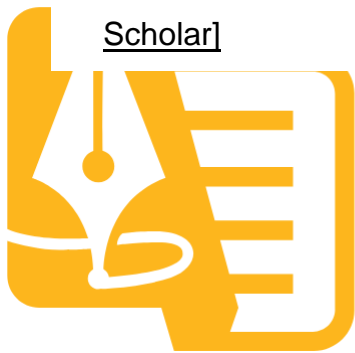
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