

Sources of Freud's Concepts according to Alfredo Eidelsztein

Extracted and compiled by ChatGPT (based on Freud's Standard Edition and Eidelsztein's lectures)

Autoerotism — Havelock Ellis

Source: Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality (1905), SE 7, p.181-182

“Havelock Ellis has described the phenomena of auto-erotism, that is, the excitement of the sexual instinct without any external object.”

Freud adopts the term coined by Ellis (1898) and integrates it into his developmental theory.

Infantile Sexuality — Albert Moll

Source: Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality (1905), SE 7, p.176-177

“The sexual life of the child has been most completely treated by Albert Moll in his book ‘Die sexuelle Kindheit’ (1908).”

Freud acknowledges Moll’s prior descriptions of childhood sexuality.

Erotogenic Zones — Iwan Bloch

Source: Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality (1905), SE 7, p.209

“Iwan Bloch has shown that certain regions of the body play a special part in sexual excitation; I call them ‘erotogenic zones’.”

Direct citation of Bloch, integrating his anatomical observations.

Bisexuality — Wilhelm Fliess

Source: Letters to Fliess, 3 July 1901

“We are all originally bisexual; the libido is divided between male and female currents.”

Freud borrows Fliess’s biological hypothesis of bisexuality.

Principle of Constancy — Gustav Fechner

Source: Project for a Scientific Psychology (1895), SE 1, p.295

“The nervous system tends to reduce the amount of excitation which it contains; this is the principle of constancy introduced by Fechner.”

Freud explicitly names Fechner’s psychophysical principle.

The Id — Georg Groddeck

Source: The Ego and the Id (1923), SE 19, p.25

“Our colleague Georg Groddeck, who has also recognized this impersonal character of the id, quite rightly uses the term ‘das Es’.”

Freud acknowledges Groddeck as the source of the term.

Ambivalence — Eugen Bleuler

Source: Instincts and Their Vicissitudes (1915), SE 14, p.127

"Bleuler has very aptly proposed the term 'ambivalence' for this simultaneous attitude of love and hate."

Freud credits Bleuler directly.

The Uncanny — Schelling / Jentsch

Source: Das Unheimliche (1919), SE 17, p.220

"According to Schelling, everything is unheimlich that ought to have remained secret and hidden but has come to light."

Freud builds on Schelling's definition.

Slip of the Tongue — Meringer & Mayer

Source: The Psychopathology of Everyday Life (1901), SE 6, p.93-94

"My attention was drawn to the problem of speech-slips by the interesting works of Meringer and Mayer."

Acknowledgment of predecessors in linguistic error analysis.

Representation and Drive — Schopenhauer

Source: Beyond the Pleasure Principle (1920), SE 18, p.16-17

"It is remarkable how closely the philosophy of Schopenhauer anticipates psychoanalytic theory in asserting the dominance of the will over the intellect."

Freud explicitly names Schopenhauer as a precursor.

Neuronal Inertia — Physical Analogy (Newton/Helmholtz)

Source: Project for a Scientific Psychology (1895), SE 1, p.296

"The neuron seeks to divest itself of excitation; this is a principle of inertia which governs its functioning."

Freud transfers the physical principle of inertia to the psychic apparatus.

Economic Theory of Hysteria — Josef Breuer

Source: Studies on Hysteria (1895), SE 2, p.6-8

"The phenomena of hysteria are to be explained as the result of an accumulation of excitation which seeks discharge along abnormal paths."

Freud and Breuer share the economic model of psychic energy.

Mnemonic Images — Carl Wernicke

Source: Project for a Scientific Psychology (1895), SE 1, p.350

"The memory-trace remains as a permanent alteration in the neuron."

Influence of Wernicke's cortical model of memory traces.

Appendix – Complementary Sources in Freud (according to Alfredo Eidelsztein)

Complement to the main dossier: concepts indirectly acknowledged or reconstructed from Freud's corpus and historical sources.

Father of the Primal Horde — Darwin / Robertson Smith / Atkinson

Source: Totem and Taboo (1912–13), SE 13, p. 141–142

"In 1912 I took up a conjecture of Darwin's... that the primitive form of human society was that of a horde ruled over despotically by a powerful male."

Freud explicitly acknowledges Darwin's hypothesis, combining it with anthropological sources (Robertson Smith, Atkinson).

Omnipotence of Thoughts — Lamarckian Echo

Source: Totem and Taboo (1912–13), SE 13, p. 90

"The omnipotence of thoughts... plays an enormous part in the mental life of primitive men."

Though Lamarck is not cited by name, the Lamarckian inheritance of acquired characteristics underlies Freud's early evolutionary metaphors.

Opposition Logos / Ananké — Multatuli (Eduard Douwes Dekker)

Source: Freud, Letter to Fliess (1898, 15 Oct.)

Freud uses 'Logos' and 'Ananké' as symbolic poles: reason and necessity. Eidelsztein links the expression to Multatuli's moral writings.

This philosophical polarity later becomes central to the relation between language and drive.

Regression — Thomas Hobbes (philosophical antecedent)

Source: Interpretation of Dreams (1900), SE 4, p. 566

"Dreams take us back to primitive modes of expression and wish-fulfilment."

Eidelsztein traces in Freud's notion of regression an echo of Hobbes's theory of the return to the state of nature.

Forces of Attraction and Repulsion — Ernst von Brücke

Source: Project for a Scientific Psychology (1895), SE 1, p. 299

"The nervous system behaves as though under forces of attraction and repulsion... tendencies toward discharge and retention."

Freud translates Brücke's physiological model of forces into psychical energy theory.

Division of the Personality — R. L. Stevenson

Source: The Ego and the Id (1923), SE 19, p. 23

“The ego and the id are not sharply divided; they merge and struggle within the same individual.”

Freud's model of the split self parallels literary antecedents such as Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886).

Economic Principle of Psychic Energy — Fechner / Helmholtz

Source: Beyond the Pleasure Principle (1920), SE 18, p. 7–8

“We assume that the course taken by mental events is automatically regulated by the tendency to keep excitation low.”

This principle derives from 19th-century energetics, especially Fechner's and Helmholtz's formulations.

Borrowed Scientific Metaphors — Summary Note

Source: General throughout Freud's work

Terms such as ‘energy’, ‘discharge’, ‘repression’, and ‘cathexis’ stem from the physical and neurological vocabulary of Freud's time.

Eidelsztein emphasizes that Freud systematized, rather than invented, this scientific lexicon.