	Component I	Component II	Component III		
Stage III	\mathbf{III}_{i}	\mathbf{III}_2	III ₃		
Stage II	Π_1	II_2	II_3		
Stage I	I ₁	${ m I}_2$	I_3		

Table 1. From E. H. Erikson (1980), Identity and the life cycle, p. 55.

Growth and Crises of the personality

Old Age (Stage VIII)	(Later form of Basic Trust)	(Later form of Autonomy)	(Later form of Initiative)	(Later form of Industry)	(Later form of Identity)	(Later form of Intimacy)	(Later form of Generativity)	Integrity vs. Despair.
Adulthood (Stage VII)						(Later form of Intimacy)	Generativity vs. Stagnation.	(Earlier form of Integrity)
Young Adulthood (Stage VI)					(Later form of Identity)	Intimacy vs. Isolation.	(Earlier form of Generativity)	
Adolescence (Stage V)		•		(Later form of Industry)	Identity vs. Identity Confusion.	(Earlier form of Intimacy)		•
School Age (Stage IV)		•	(Later form of Initiative)	Identity vs. Inferiority.	(Earlier form of Identity)			
Play Age (Stage III)		(Later form of Autonomy)	Initiatise vs. Guilt.	(Earlier form of Industry)				
Early Childhood (Stage II)	(Later form of Basic Trust)	Autonomy vs. Shame, Doubt.	(Earlier form of Initiative)					
Infancy (Stage I)	Basic Trust vs. Mistrust.	(Earlier form of Autonnomy)	(Earlier form of Initiative)	(Earlier form of Industry)	(Earlier form of Identity)	(Earlier form of Intimacy)	(Earlier form of Generativity)	(Earlier form of Integrity)
	1 .	9	. 3	1	5	6	7	8

Table 2. From E. H. Erikson (1982), The Life Cycle Completed, p. 56. Slight modifications are made by the author.

Erikson borrows the term epigenesis from embryology and uses it to mean a step-by-step sequence of growth and development. An epigenetic diagram is shown in Table 1.

The double-lined squares indicate both a sequence of stages (I to III) and a gradual development of component parts. This signifies (1) that "each item of the healthy personality to be discussed is systematically related to all others," and that "they all depend on the proper development in the proper sequence of each item," and (2) that "each item exists in some form before 'its' decisive and critical time normally arrives" (Erikson, 1980, p. 54).

Erikson's theory, like H. Hartmann's adaptation theory, rests on the assumption that an inborn coordination is present between the developing individual and his human (social) environment, and that this coordination is mutual. Erikson's theory postulates a cogwheeling of the life cycles. Each phase of the life cycle is characterized by a phase–specific developmental task (see Table 2) which must be solved in each stage, though