

continuous with and related to the external object-world and as differently oriented to their inner object-world as well" (Chodorow, 1978, p. 167). That is, dependency issues differ between girls and boys because masculine identity is "threatened by intimacy," while female identity is "threatened by separation." As a result "males tend to have problems with relationships, while females tend to have problems with individuation" (Chodorow, 1978, p. 168). According to Gilligan (1982), Erikson's description of the life cycle ignores gender identity and makes it appear that, if women do not separate successfully, it is a developmental failure, leaving them with a "sense of inferiority." Erikson (1968), however, makes a distinction between girl's and boy's identity formation. He notes that the girl holds her identity "in abeyance" as she prepares to "attract the man by whose name she will be known, by whose status she will be defined, that man who will rescue her from emptiness and loneliness by filling the inner space." The boy's identity, unlike the girl's, precedes the tasks of intimacy and generativity, whereas intimacy and identity tasks appear to be combined for the girl as she "comes to know herself as she is known, through her relationship with others" (Gilligan, 1982, p. 12). In the man's life cycle, women assume "the roles of nurturer, caretaker, helpmate, and weaver of those network relationships on which she in turn relies" (Gilligan, 1982, p. 13). In contrast, men devalue care and see maturity as personal autonomy. Relationships are seen as weakness rather than strength. Given the stress on attachment, intimacy, and relationship from the beginning of the life cycle of women, as described by Gilligan and Chodorow, the intervention with the elderly must begin to take this into account. Based on this assumption, the social worker working with the elderly needs to have the alternative perspectives for both the male and female elderly in the life review/reminiscence process.

Ego integrity of elderly men tends to be accomplished through the life review which considers their autonomy as the continuity of separation. However, ego integrity of elderly women can be achieved by reminiscing their relationships with others which is the continuity of attachment.

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