

GLOSARIO FERENCZIANO INGLÉS.

L

LANGUAGE OF TENDERNESS AND PASSION

(Die Sprache der Zärtlichkeit und der Leidenschaft)

Tenderness is the pre-oedipal and passion the post-oedipal register of experience. Tenderness therefore tends to focus on oral gratification, kissing, nuzzling and snuggling close together. Passion is phallic, incestuous, hence prone to punishment (castration) and laden with guilt ('Leiden' means 'to suffer' in German).

Ferenczi concentrates on the 'confusion' (Sprachverwirrung) of these two registers in the relationships between adults and children: in many 'seduction' scenes, children desire tenderness and adults respond passionately.

LOVE (*Liebe, Verliebtheit, Lieben*)

A big noun (Liebe), which Ferenczi uses in two distinct ways. First, as a positive transference phenomenon, in which the subject is entranced by the object of desire. This focuses on reception of a dominating experience, as the hypnotized experiences the hypnotizer. In German, this use is always qualified by the passive – 'Verliebtheit' refers to the state of 'being' in love, rather than actively 'loving'.

In contrast, the verb to love 'actively' (Lieben) defines the analyst's task, which defies coercion and instead offers the patient tenderness (Zärtlichkeit). This active form is difficult to define, precisely because it is neither dominating nor based on patriarchal authority within the oedipal model. Instead, it is inspired by the mother's position, which is purposefully defined as separate from the then socially accepted views of women as passive receptors of phallic penetration (Ferenczi, Diary, 26 November 1932). Ferenczi is quite aware that this begs many political questions, and indeed implies that everyone should explore such questions through study of contradictions in the mother's position.

Volver Glosario Ferencziano Español
Volver Glosario Ferencziano Inglés
Volver Glosario Ferencziano Francés