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Psychoanalysis in Time – Time in Psychoanalysis

Summary:

Let's watch the initial scene of the well-known film *Wild Strawberries*, where it is possible to notice the absence of time in the unconscious system, unlike consciousness. The purpose of this paper is to look into some aspects of heterochrony, as a typically Freudian concept, paying particular attention to early Freudian thought. The underlying fil rouge is the relation between the functioning of mnemonic systems and human temporalities as dynamic structures/processes which can be represented as reciprocal complementary images. We may say that individual memory, temporality and phantasy (phylogenetic memory) function as a self-referential three-fold structure capable of generating a world and providing it with meaning. *Après coup* is its main mechanism, which with its constant functioning, just like the flying shuttle in a loom, continuously "corrects" the weaving through a temporalspatial to-and-fro movement. After analyzing the differences between the three classical dimensions of time: past, present and future, in their relation with consciousness, memory and waiting, it is clear that, according to psychoanalysis, man lives in a multiplicity of temporalities, which intersect continuously and show us a reality where a time is inscribed into another time and the latter into yet another.