

Sexuation and Sexuality in Psychoanalysis :

Rereading Freud against Lacanians

○ Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science Naoko Furukawa

This presentation represents an attempt to intervene into the current debate between psychoanalysis and feminism, and to provide new perspective on this research field. There has been a complex and contended history between feminism and psychoanalysis, and, since Mitchell's groundbreaking work (1973), heated theoretical debate over Lacanian psychoanalysis takes place between them. However, both Lacanian theorists/feminists and anti-Lacanian feminists have missed the point. By reducing Freud's theory on sexuality to Lacan's on sexual difference, they fail to grasp the distinctive way in which Freud defines the concept of "sexuality".

This quarrel between feminism and Lacanian psychoanalysis in no way calls into question to what extent Lacanian formulation of the primacy of 'sexed' subject (or "sexual difference") does justice to Freud's original insights. This presentation seeks to overcome the deadlocked discussion between psychoanalysis and feminism, by shedding light on the hitherto unexplored aspect of Freudian psychoanalysis, whose radical implications remain yet to be unearthed.

Drawing on the suggestion of Jean Laplanche, a prominent French psychoanalyst, this presentation examines the specific manner in which Freud distinguishes the terms *Geschlecht*- and *Sexual*-, and tries to show that the proper object of psychoanalytic inquiry belongs to the realm of *Sexualität* (sexuality), which is fundamentally independent from *Geschlechtlichkeit* (sexuation). Freud uses the term *Sexual* or *Sexualität* to name and describe his new field of inquiry, to which psychoanalysis adds a completely new conceptualization. Sexuality, which plays such a central role in the psychoanalytic theory of neurosis, never designates *Geschlechtlichkeit*, which is the problem of sexual difference or sexuation.

The question that this presentation will attempt to answer is whether Lacanian formulation of sexuation, which entails ontologizing and prioritizing of sexual difference over all other forms of differences can be properly called "psychoanalytic" in the Freudian sense of the term. We will show how their claim is based on the conflation of sexuation and sexuality, which can bring about serious theoretical consequences. Lacanian formulation of sexual difference, at least inasmuch as it reduces the problem of sexuality to that of sexuation, amounts to erasure of the conceptual specificity of Freud's psychoanalysis.

The problem with their interpretation resides in the unquestioned presumption that sexuality signifies no more and no less than that of which takes place between sexed subjects. The term 'sexual difference' itself amounts to blurring the conceptual distinction of sexuation and sexuality, on which lays the basis of Freudian psychoanalysis.