

Citing examples AND RELEVANT QUOTED TEXT from primary and secondary sources, Compare the ways in which two social theorists have understood the connections between the structures of our society and human agency -

John Bowlby stated in the intention of the attachment theory; evolutionary concepts allow the child to develop the ability to survive through certain emotional and behavioural tendencies allowed the infant/child to maintain a close and secure attachment with their primary carers. Bowlby also identified the fact that children and infants create models of themselves and of their relationships with people that are important in their lives. These mental representations are the main element on their relationship and interactions they have with their primary carers. Moreover, Bowlby believed that the evolutionary was the attachment component, which supports survival. Bowlby states "The propensity to make strong emotional bonds to particular individuals [is] a basic component of human nature" (Bowlby, 1988, pg 3).

Bowlby believed during the first five years of the relationship between the infant/child and the main carer is the most vital towards socialisation. He believed if any type of disruption of the relationship between the infant/child and the primary carer accrued it could cause common emotional difficulties' and antisocial behaviour. In addition, Bowlby studied his hypothesis, the analysis was conducted within a child guidance clinic on 44 adolescent juvenile delinquents. Bowlby measured that a strong attachment to the main carer was essential for the infants/child's psychological well being in the future. Bowlby included if there was a distribution in relation to the attachment of the infant and main care provider or loss of the main carer, it may result in serious problems such as affectionless psychopath, he called this 'maternal deprivation'. He said if a child experiences maternal deprivation, it would lead to substandard relationships later in life.

Bowlby aim was to look at whether frequent separations during there early stages of childhood were associated with behavioural disorders such as the term used by Bowlby "affectionless psychopathy". Bowlby's indication of this term was to explain why certain individuals experience no guilt; no sense of social conscience towards there actions. This allowed him to analyse whether it is connected to the child's disrupted early life. Juvenile delinquency is the main issue Bowlby examined at the child guidance clinic. He stated the most common age of appearing in the courts for theft was 13 years, and suggested theft was a childhood condition. Bowlby wanted to distinguish the cause and effect of relationships, in relation to material deprivation and emotional maladjustment.

To conduct the analysis 88 children were chosen from the clinic where Bowlby worked; he accurately picked the appropriate children from consecutive referrals. From these there were 44 juvenile thieves, who had been referred to him for the reason of there thieving. The former 44 (who were referred to the controlled group) had been referred not due to anti social behaviour, but it was emotional problems. The ages of the children consisted of 5-11 in each group of two, and 12-16 was the other half. In relation to boy and girl ratio, there were 13 girls and 31 boys in the theft group and 34 boys and 10 girls in the group referred to the control group. The theft group consisted of children that had been referred to the clinic by different institution. Twenty four children were referred by their school, eight were referred by there carers, nine by probation services and lastly referred by the courts consisted of three children. An IQ test was performed on the 2 groups and the results were closely matched.

Examination of the children was taken place by a social worker and a psychologist, who had produced separate reports. The IQ test was performed on each child that had entered the

**Comment [m1]:** Sometimes showing a critical awareness of how the debate has moved on will get you far more marks than one might think. For example, Anthony Giddens has developed the concept of 'Reflexivity.' We process information and have the capacity today to self reflect; be influenced by structure or in fact ignore it behave according to our agency. It is quite abstract but some mention of it would help I feel.

**Comment [m2]:** This sounds a little odd and later in the sentence you say allow and allowed. Tend to avoid repeating same word in same sentence.

**Comment [m3]:** What?

**Comment [m4]:** Yes, if I recall he spoke about survival.

**Comment [m5]:** Most vital in the socialisation process. Her you might mention/refer back to question. Isn't socialisation a product of structure. Functionalists see Family, Education, MM as agencies of socialisation.

**Comment [m6]:** Is common needed?

**Comment [m7]:** Redraft this as it doesn't make sense to say someone studies their hypothesis.

**Comment [m8]:** Again, sorry but this sentence is far too long and the English is problematic in that you can't say Bowlby included if there was .....as that doesn't make sense.

**Comment [m9]:** I guess my main issue is that this exposition about some of the ideas Bowlby has about attachment is all very well but there is no mention of structure or action in any explicit sense. Whilst this may come later, it is not always a good idea to ignore the brief until later in the work. Shouldn't you be explaining h...

**Comment [m10]:** Bowlby's.

**Comment [m11]:** Delete as not needed.

**Comment [m12]:** Bowlby indicated by this term that certain individuals experie...

**Comment [m13]:** That is the wind and rain kind.

**Comment [m14]:** Cause and effect is key to your assignment brief, so seek to develop this.

**Comment [m15]:** Not sure what accurately means. Can one pick inaccurately?

**Comment [m16]:** Avoid repeating thieves and thieving and you need to change there to their.

**Comment [m17]:** Institutions.

**Comment [m18]:** I'm still not sure how this relates to the brief. What significance does all this have for structure and action...

**Comment [m19]:** Was undertaken by a social worker.

clinic by a psychologist who had also examined the child's emotional attitudes in relation to the conducted tests. Another examination was performed on the child's main care giver; this recorded interview was based on the child's early life. Bowlby then subsequently conducted an initial interview with the children and their care givers. Bowlby and the other two professionals compared their findings, and read the reports that had been displayed by the institutions that had referred the child's e.g. courts school. Future examinations on the child and there main care givers were taken over few months, this was done so Bowlby and the two professionals are able to gather in-depth information in relation to the child's history and psychological characteristics displayed.

**Comment [m20]:** Mandy. This seems like padding because it does not explicitly or implicitly relate to the assignment brief. How does this whole paragraph relate to structure or action?

Bowlby categorised each child in the two groups, these categories consisted of six elements; Normal - no irregular symptoms (Childs characteristics are normal), Depressed - symptoms of Depression - Bowlby also came up with sub-category of 'Depression' he called 'Priggish' for over-conscientious children, circular – children showing alternating symptoms of depression and over-active, hyperthymic - symptoms of over-activity, affectionless applying characteristics that show no affection for others and no sense of responsibility, schizoid - reserved and an absent of relationship with others.

From conducting this study Bowlby's finding indicated several aspects of the study of the children's early childhood linked with the 6 elements. One child from the "normal" category had been involved in theft from the age of 14; however this was only from his mother who was earning a lot of money. There was 5 children who were suffering from mild depression, 2 of them had very low IQ. Some had been categorised to have severe depression, this was often related to specific event in the child's life e.g. loss of the main career. Bowlby found 32% (14) of the children had experienced early separation from there main carers, and had diagnosed then with affectionless psychopaths (hyperthymic). Thieves that were diagnosed with affectionless psychopathy, their were 86% of children that experienced a period of maternal separation before the age of 5 years. Within that 86% most of then spent there early child hood in hospitals, residential homes and families did not visit very often. There were 17% of thieves that were not diagnosed with affectionless psychopaths, had experienced maternal separation.

**Comment [m21]:** Findings.

**Comment [m22]:** Please rewrite this sentence as is does not make any sense.

From this study Bowlby's analysis showed that maternal separation/deprivation in childhood causes enduring emotional effects, he diagnosed this as a condition and called it Affectionless Psychopathy. Bowlby stated, this condition demonstrates characteristics that show a lack of emotional development, deficient in the concerns of others, guilt and no inability to form relationships that are meaningful. According to Bowlby the thieves could act upon this criminal act because they did not show emotion for others, therefore he levelled 56% of the thieves as affectionless. Bowlby declared that as soon as the attachment bond between the infant and the carer was broken, the negative outcomes could not be undone or reversed.

**Comment [m23]:** This is the most potentially relevant point thus far. That agency is clearly in evidence but this agency is socially destructive. Structure of bonding to primary carer had failed and the result was a sort of negative or pathological agency. This is only me thinking out load from what you wrote but I hope you can see how my comments relate far more explicitly to the brief.

He believed that a child showing affectionless behaviour was related to depression at the child's early life, due to the suffering of loss of their main carer. The implications of this study was that the research was used to notify the issues regarding parenting, especially the effect on the infant who had suffered separation from there main carers.

**Comment [m24]:** This last summative paragraph need to focus far more on how Bowlby's work relates to the structure/action debate. I feel that this is difficult and I would not have chosen Bowlby. Mead v Comte far easier.

Now moving on to Durkheim's study on suicide, in 1897 Durkheim published his book on suicide; he explored the relationship between the individual and society and came up with an analysis of suicide. Durkheim attempt was to show that suicide could be explained through social aspects, rather then just looking at it through psychologist aspects. Durkheim proposed

**Comment [m25]:** Full stop new sentence.

**Comment [m26]:** Not really about the individual but about using positivist methods to explain aggregate levels of suicide.

**Comment [m27]:** Slang.

a definition of suicide "the term suicide is applied to all cases of death resulting directly or indirectly from a positive or negative act of the victim himself, which he knows will produce this result" (2006, page xlviii). Durkheim believed an act like suicide is influenced by the social world. Suicide was regarded to be a social fact by Durkheim; therefore he attempted to explain it through different social factors which would explain why people commit suicide.

**Comment [m28]:** That was represented in official statistics across a range of West European nations.

Durkheim chose to conduct this study due to the availability of suicide statistics from many European countries. He regarded these statistics as social facts, and believed these social facts could be used to find out sociological causes of suicide. He explained how suicide rates differed in different societies. Furthermore Durkheim found steady differences in the suicide rates between different groups within the same society. He believed it was not possible to give an explanation to these patterns if suicide was seen solely as a personal and individual act.

**Comment [m29]:** So for Durkheim, structure and its effects on us are the reasons to explain aggregate levels of suicide. One is either under or over regulated or under or over integrated.

**Comment [m30]:** He chose to conduct his study for other reasons. He chose it because he was determined to show Sociology could be held in similar esteem to the natural sciences. To do that he chose a topic that appeared individualistic in nature so he could prove otherwise. Using statistics, comparative method and the development of typologies of suicide were all attempts to show the powerful affect of structure and the great potential of sociology to be scientific.

Durkheim's theory of suicide presents a theory that specifies four types of suicide which relates to the nature of social causes in them: altruistic, anomic, egoistic and fatalistic. Durkheim engaged the four types of suicide with two elements, integration and regulation. In the circumstances of low integration it results in egoistic suicide, when integration is high altruistic suicide occur. In relation to regulation, high regulation occurs it results in fatalistic suicide, low regulation causes anomic suicide.

**Comment [m31]:** Develop point by discussing religion.

**Comment [m32]:** Is.

Egoistic suicide is a result of too little social integration. Individuals who commit egoistic suicide are not suitably bound to a social group and there is a sense that life is meaningless amongst individuals. These are individuals who are not suitably connected to social groups, they are then left with barely any social support or guidance, and therefore tend to commit suicide on an increased basis. (Durkheim, 2006, 105-110). Durkheim found that in certain types of societies have low levels of integration Durkheim based his study on statistical differences between suicide rates in Catholic, Protestant and Jewish populations in Europe. (Durkheim, 2006, pg 105- 124). He found that suicidal rates were higher amongst those who were widowed, single and divorced than married. Suicide rates are higher among Protestants in comparison to Catholics and Jews. Catholics and Jews had normal levels of integration, whereas Protestants had low levels.

**Comment [m33]:** The failure of a marriage, the loss of a job/career might explain egoistic suicide. One's bonds have been broken.

The second type is Altruistic suicide, this type of suicide relates to too much integration. Durkheim says the social currents that create high levels of integration can lead to this suicide. Self sacrifice defines altruistic suicide "individual is forced into committing suicide." (Ritzer, 1992, pg 91). Self sacrifice is where an individual is so integrated into a social group, which they have lost sight of their own identity and are controlled by the group. The most common case of altruistic suicide is among those who are in the military and also suicide bombers.

**Comment [m34]:** Japanese Kamikaze pilots from WW2. One gives up ones life for the greater good of society.

**Comment [m35]:** Yes, authoritarian.

Fatalistic suicide refers to a high extreme of regulation, this type of suicide occurs when society is overly oppressive, people prefer to die than to continue to live within their society (Giddens, 1971, 26). Durkheim briefly describes, how he saw this type as a rare phenomenon in the real world. He says this type of suicide is related mainly to historical context rather than modern societies Examples of this type of suicide includes those with overregulated, unrewarding lives such as childless married women, slaves, and young husbands.

**Comment [m36]:** Develop an understanding of fatalism. Fatalism is where one feels that structures are so oppressive or insurmountable that life cannot be changed for the better.

Finally anomic suicide, this type of suicide is associated with low levels of regulation. In this type of suicide the individual feels disconnected from the society's norms and values.

(Durkheim, 2006, pp.201-206). This type of suicide can arise during periods associated with economic depression or over rapid economic expansion; this is the cause of a failure of economic expansion and division of labour. An individual does not know where they belong within their societies as regulation structures are weakened; therefore individual may possibly feel rootless.

Durkheim divided anomic suicide into four categories: acute and chronic economic anomie, and acute and chronic domestic anomie. Each involves an imbalance of means and needs, where means were unable to fulfil needs. Acute economic anomie relates to institutions such as religion, social systems. Economic anomie illustrates how sporadic decreases in the ability of traditional institutions that regulate and fulfil social needs. Chronic economic anomie relates to the long term diminution of social regulation. This type was recognised by Durkheim as an ongoing industrial revolution, which eroded traditional social regulations and frequently failed to restore them. Industrial aims of wealth and property were inadequate in offering happiness; this was demonstrated by high statistical suicide rates among the wealthy than among the poor. Acute domestic anomie relates to the sudden change in the micro social level, which results in a failure to become accustomed and therefore higher suicide rates become apparent (Widows are the major example of this type of anomie). Chronic domestic anomie refers to the way marriage is a regulated institution. Marriage provides different regulations for each. However bachelors are more likely to commit suicide at higher rates in comparison to married men, this is because there is a lack of regulation.

When looking at this from an agency and structure point of view, it becomes apparent that there are differences between Bowlby and Durkheim. Structure is seen as something which **constrains** individual in society **and are determining**. Agency contrasts to this, individuals are viewed as agents who have the ability to act and make choices.

John Bowlby looked at his research from a micro view point; this involves studying individuals in depth and their relationships with others, in this case it was the relationship between the child and the carer. This would also involve interaction and analysing small scale structures, agency then connects with **this**.

Agency is something which links in with Bowlby work on the attachment theory and 44 juvenile **thieves**. He studied thieves and a control group; he went in depth via interviews with parents and used psychiatric reports and IQ tests. His attachment theory is something which links in with structure and agency, mainly because the carer is seen as the structure and a stabilizing person for the **child**, as the carer passes on the norms and values for the socialization process. This differs from the child who is the agent, as when they are born there not constrained in terms of how to behave and act, this is the carers role to pass on how to behave. His findings in the 44 juvenile thieves study showed that an early form of separation between the child and carer meant that the child became more cold, and that this could lead to the child becoming an affectionless psychopath and not being able to form **relationships**. So the child's ability to act and take action can be hindered in terms of forming relationships because of this, however it can also mean that the actions and choices that they make are ones that are seen as not normal, as they haven't learned to understand what is seen correct behaviour, this means that they could be seen to be affectionless psychopaths.

**Comment [m37]:** The individual.

**Comment [m38]:** English error here, doesn't make sense.

**Comment [m39]:** If one studies small scale, then one is asserting that human behaviour is motivated behaviour. People do not always act in the same way in the same set of circumstances. Seeking to discover universal laws as Durkheim attempted to do is pointless.

**Comment [m40]:** Restructure the work. Bowlby then this section, Durkheim, then the commentary. Final part then becomes the conclusion. By doing this you avoid long parts of the prose appearing to relate to the brief.

**Comment [m41]:** Good point.

**Comment [m42]:** Yes but isn't that quite deterministic and aren't macro, structural positivists deterministic.

Durkheim however views suicide from an objective viewpoint. Structures were crucial things to examine, religion, family and the economy were the main structures that were mentioned in Le suicide. How we are constrained and regulated by these structures are key to Durkheim's work, as he looked at society and institutions in macro perspective, which involves studying these institutions from a much larger and broader viewpoint, examples will now be given on this. His descriptions of anomie and egoism link with the economy and religion, as in the case of anomie its clear to see that the failure of the economy to regulate society had an impact on people committing more suicides. Durkheim made it clear that the economy must regulate the individual otherwise an individual's position in society isn't clear, and this may cause people to act and behave differently, this then would connect with agency.

**Comment [m43]:** Claims to but never operationalised his main concepts, that of regulation and integration. This leaves him open to the charge of being a realist not a macro positivist.. Realists accept that social science cannot operate in same way as natural science.

**Comment [m44]:** But he wasn't interested in individuals, more about explaining macro trends. He saw us as 'puppets of social forces.'

religion was brought up in regards to egoistic suicide, Catholics and Jews were found to be more strongly integrated into their religion, this was the opposite for protestants, this meant that they committed less suicides as they felt a sense of belonging in that social group. This shows that religion is a structure which depending upon the religion can integrate people into social groups and society. The family is another key structure which Durkheim includes in his work, low integration in relation to family is exemplified by unmarried people or widows, he found that this can cause suicide.

**Comment [m45]:** Capital letter.

Overall it's clear to see that there is a difference between Bowlby and Durkheim in terms of structure and agency. Durkheim likes to look at social facts objectively and this includes looking at structures and the influence that they have in terms of suicide rates. Agency isn't particularly looked at from his point of view; this is something which Bowlby looks at in terms of the child, while the carer is seen as the structure. Bowlby likes to look in depth at individuals and involves interaction, Durkheim on the other hand was a macro theorist. There weren't many similarities in terms of the structures that were looked at and agency.

**Comment [m46]:** Yes, I'd go along with that.

**Comment [m47]:** To summarise, learn something about Giddens and reflexivity as I can promise you it would impress the assessor of your work. This would show that the debate has moved on.