

In the area of addictive behaviour, psychoanalytic approaches are very often criticized or completely neglected. Nevertheless they could significantly contribute to the treatment of addictions, especially in its final stage. Their main contribution is in searching for origins and causes of the addiction. In the therapy they could help to reveal inner conflicts and traumas, and to facilitate their understanding and acceptance.

The main aim of my thesis is to illustrate the contribution of psychoanalytic approaches in the treatment of addiction. Furthermore an effort is made to point out, that if the psychotherapy is enriched by psychoanalysis, and further criteria are fulfilled, the treatment can acquire a deeper meaning, and the probability of its efficiency increases.

The thesis is divided into theoretical and empirical part. The theoretical part presents an overview of psychoanalytical theories of the origin and development of addiction. It describes some features of the addicted people from the psychoanalytical point of view and the part is completed by necessary critical evaluation. The empirical part contains a case study of a woman who is addicted to alcohol. On her case I try to illustrate the psychoanalytical views of on the rise and development of addictive behaviour. Data are obtained from conversations, that are with the permission of the client recorded on a dictaphone and transcribed into written form.

In the discussion the case study is analysed according to the Erickson stages of development and by describing the time-axis of the keypoints in client's life. The fact is also illustrated, that there is never a single factor that determines the rise of addictive behaviour, but life situations and key moments have to be taken into account. The conclusion summarizes the aims of the bachelor thesis and concretizes the importance of psychoanalytic approaches.