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“I am the sculptor and I am the clay.”

The quote “I am the sculptor and I am the clay” has to do with socialization. Socialization is, “the lifelong social experience by which people develop their human potential and learn culture…humans need social experience to learn their culture and survive” (Macionis 116). The beginning of the quote has to do with John B. Watson’s theory of behaviorism. Watson’s theory states that, “behavior is not instinctive but learned” (Macionis 116). Therefore, like a sculptor,   
according to behaviorism, we are in control of our destiny or in the sculptor’s case, sculpture. Because, if behavior is instinctive that means we have no control over what happens to us, it would be biologically determined that we are good or bad, but because of Watson’s theory of behaviorism we know that all behavior is learned. So, we are like the sculptor because we are the only ones with the control over what happens to our lives. Much like how the sculptor is the only one in control over what the clay becomes. The second half of the quote, I believe, deals with Mead’s concept of self. Mead says, “…self, the part of an individual’s personality composed of self-awareness and self-image” (Macionis 122). Mead’s concept looks at how people are developed by how others see us and then how we see ourselves because we allow ourselves to be molded by how other’s think we are. Mead said that the self develops in three stages. “Firstly, said Mead, the self develops only with social experience…Second, Mead explained, social experience is the exchange of symbols…Third, Mead continued, understanding intention requires imagining the situation from the other’s point of view” (Macionis 122). All of these stages deal with how we are ‘molded’ through our social ties and experiences just like the clay is molded by an outside force. Both of these theories work together to make up a person’s personality and behavior. Just how the sculptor is not really a sculptor with nothing to mold and without the sculptor all you really have is a lump of clay you cannot really have a complete person without both of these theories in place. There have been many cases where children grew up in abusive households chained up in basements with absolutely no interaction with people at all and how they were not truly developed without a true relationship with another person. So, without these two theories in place, we, as humans, would not be complete.   
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Works Cited  
Macionis, John J. Sociology. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice   
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