# Objective

* Paraphrase nagel’s argument in support of the conclusion that intercourse with animals, infants, and inanimate objects are sexual perversions

# Essay Notes

* What helps in such cases is the peculiarity of the desire itself, rather than the inappropriateness of its object to the biological function that the desire serves. Even an appetite, it would seem, can have perversions if in addition to its biological function it has a significant psychological structure.
* I believe that various familiar deviations constitute truncated or incomplete versions of the complete configuration, and may therefore be regarded as perversions of the central impulse.
* In particular, narcissistic practices and intercourse with animals, infants, and inanimate objects seem to be stuck at some primitive version of the first stage
* If the object is not alive, the experience is reduced entirely to an awareness of one's own sexual embodiment. Small children and animals permit awareness of the embodiment of the other, but present obstacles to reciprocity, to the recognition by the sexual object of the subject's desire as the source of his (the object's) sexual self-awareness
* sexual perversions, will have to be sexual desires or practices that can be plausibly described as in some sense unnatural,
* Second, certain practices will be perversions if anything is, such as shoe fetishism, bestiality, and sadism
* if there are perversions, they will be unnatural sexual inclinations rather than merely unnatural practices adopted not from inclination but for other reasons
* A sexual perversion must reveal itself
* in conduct that expresses an unnatural sexual preference.
* For it not to be sexual perversion, there needs to be sexual desire & reciprocity
* Its unnatural to be turned on by a show; if your sexual desire is directed at a show, that is sexual perversion
* Nagel says sexual perversion is about psychology, the psychology of a person’s desire has been perverted
* Nagel’s thesis sexual perversion is connected to a sexual desire for a particular object, that is unnatural and psychotic