

**FINAL RATINGS AND CLASSIFICATIONS FOR CASE   SAMPLE**

**Judge:** Helen Deane Dozier **Date:** 6-28-09 **Sex/Approx Age of Speaker:** F/young adult  
**HDDC code:** AAI-EXAMPLE1

**SUMMARY: EXPERIENCES**

<b>Scales Scored for Experience</b>	Mother	Father	Other Person	
Rejecting	7.0	7.0		
Involving/Reversing	7.0	2.0		
Pressure to Achieve	1.0	2.0		
Neglecting	6.5	7.5		
Loving	2.0	1.5		

<b>Experiences Present /Absent</b>	Mother	Father	Other Person	
Abuse sexual (yes or no)	no	no		
Abuse physical (yes or no)	yes	no		
Other abuse/extreme events (give type if you believe qualifying)	none			

Does speaker have children? no If no, is speaker asked about imagined children? yes

**SUMMARY: STATE OF MIND**

<b>Scales for States of Mind Respecting the Parents (or other persons)</b>				
	Mother	Father	Other Person	
Idealizing	1.0	1.0		
Involving Anger	(5.0)	(5.0)		
Derogation	2.0	3.0		

<b>Scales for Overall States of Mind</b>	
Overall Derogation of Attachment	3.0
Insistence on Lack of Recall	1.0
Metacognitive Processes	1.0
Passivity of Thought Processes	3.0
Fear of Loss	1.0

Highest Score - Unresolved Loss (asterisk if occurred during last year)	NA
Highest Score for Unresolved Trauma	(2.5)
<b>Overall "U" score</b> (highest of two above)	<b>(2.5)</b>
Highest Estimated Score - "Other" Trauma (name trauma, place in parentheses)	NA

<b>Coherence of Transcript</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Coherence of Mind</b>	<b>4.5</b>

**Coder's notes:**

See attached pages.

**CLASSIFICATION:           E2**

## Coder's Notes

**Overview:** This transcript reveals an adult who endured a childhood marked by highly neglectful and rejecting behavior from both parents, coupled with inconsistent love that often did not seem like love at all and certainly couldn't be counted on, and by involving behavior by the apparently needy mother. The subject summarizes the situation honestly and without embellishment in the opening paragraph when asked to describe her childhood. But as the subject begins coming up with adjectives for her childhood relationships, an underlying anger and disgust with the way she was treated emerges, and this anger is an undercurrent throughout the interview. At first reading, the subject demonstrates a certain ability to see her situation as it is and tell it coherently, suggestive of a secure/autonomous classification. However, closer scrutiny makes E the best fit for this transcript and I believe that with more probing of the childhood adjectives for specifics, the underlying anger toward both parents for their neglect, rejection and (mother's) abuse might well be revealed with more certainty. There is also some dismissive derogation both for attachment figures and for the subject of attachment, but perhaps – especially in the light of the abuse that also occurred-- it should not be surprising that the subject employs various strategies to cope with her sad and rejecting childhood relationships. Perhaps the best evidence of an E (Preoccupied/Entangled) classification as opposed to F (Secure/Autonomous) is that the subject still seems to be under the control of her attachment relationships from the past rather than owning her reactions to them – still believing the “teachings” that she was unworthy of love, that she's a bad person, that she can't trust others' love to be there consistently.

**Note:** More precise scoring for Involving Anger, critical in determining the E2 classification, might be possible had the questions regarding support for the adjectives been asked according to AAI Protocol, followed by some gentle coaching to help the subject understand the request for specific adjectives, while not leading her with suggested examples. Even though she is not reminded that each adjective relates to childhood, the subject does a good job of staying in the past. Mary Main provides an excellent detailed discussion of how to probe for adjectives in her AAI Protocol available in HTML or PDF form here:

[http://www.psychology.sunysb.edu/attachment/measures/content/aai\\_interview.pdf](http://www.psychology.sunysb.edu/attachment/measures/content/aai_interview.pdf)

**Involving Anger regarding Mother (crucial in determining E2 classification):** See passage at top of page 6, which reveals anger and exasperation with both parents when replying to what they did when she was hurt when a young child. Subject refers a couple of times to “the finger thing” when talking about her mother, who would put up one finger when she wanted her daughter to go away because she was busy, and subject's language in talking about various incidents is marked by angry words intermixed in the criticism of her parents' reactions to her distress. She sees her mother's behavior when she (the subject) was sick as “any excuse” to jump in and use her nurse training, and says her mother would “make me watch Winnie the Pooh or something,” which is an unusual way (and telling way regarding the involving anger beneath the surface) to feel about your mother's care when sick. Also, adjectives

chosen to describe attachment relationships and the discussion around those adjectives had an angry tone and were interlaced with pejorative terms.

**Abuse:** Abuse is definitely identified by AAI standards, as subject reveals at least two occasions when the mother went into frightening rages directed at the child. (See passage on page 4 in response to question about threatening behavior.)

However, there was insufficient dialog around the abuse questions to be precise with a U-Trauma score, thus the parenthetical 2.5 as a U-Abuse score (actual score could be a point or two higher, but not lower in this case). Once the abuse is identified, the coder needs to see some discussion (if the subject seems willing to talk about it) around the incident, as only discussion of the abuse can be used to determine the abuse score once abuse has been identified. When a subject seems willing to discuss it, the interviewer can ask for elaboration on the incident, how it got started, how the subject reacted, if there were marks on her arms where her mother grabbed her, and so on. The coder needs to see how the subject uses language to talk about the actual incident(s) to reveal the current state of mind regarding those past events.

**E qualities:** Transcript exhibits these E qualities:

- (Some) Involving/preoccupying anger
- Pejorative remarks
- Identity or sense of self tied to early experiences with the parents
- Topic closed/old/familiar rather than open or foreign
- Psych expressions, interpretations
- Strange E3-like recounting (p. 4) of an event from her childhood when she became upset at the site of a skinned deer and “ran off into this white picket fence with roses where there were these huge geese who chased me and bit me, and that’s why I loathe geese.”

However, unlike many E transcripts, subject did not get lost in her anger or her recounting of events, answering most questions fairly concisely and coherently, and transcript also exhibits some F qualities.

**F qualities:**

- Modestly coherent
- Some valuing of attachment
- Understanding (of reasons for parents’ behavior)
- Some balance (p. 5, parents did “pretty good” considering their own upbringing)
- Notes effects of experiences on self
- Notes setbacks

**(slight) Ds qualities:**

- Dismissing derogation
- Devaluing of attachment – see statement that subject just does not care anymore. It’s difficult to ascertain if the statement is true, even though the subject seems to believe it is so, and has perhaps decided that “not caring” is the only way she can free herself from the pain of too much caring in the disappointing relationships with her parents. Perhaps the subject is on the way to a more secure/autonomous understanding that her

caring may not result in a reciprocal response, but that her self-worth is not dependent on how her parents treat her, and never was. (Note, there is also F-like “valuing of attachment” in some places, especially regarding her saying she loved her neglecting/rejecting father and truly wanted a relationship with him.)

**Mother Loving score:** Inconsistent, unreliable “loving” behavior (lowering Loving score, adding to Neglecting score) – p. 1, subject says mother would obsessively shower her with attention, taking “tons of photographs,” collect her hair, “stand around watching me for hours,” then be neglectful, hardly realizing she existed.

**Mother Involving behavior:** p. 1, subject says mother was in her room a lot, sick with eating disorder, subject would “have to bring her food a lot.” Also, the mother’s apparent neediness to obsessively shower attention on the child, only to then completely ignore and reject her, is self-absorbed and involving behavior.

**Father Neglect:** p. 1, Subject says father worked long days and traveled for business, then would sit in front of the TV and “kinda zone out” when home. She says she had to play baseball to get his attention because he liked sports. One of the saddest passages that seems to sum up the frustrating relationship is on p. 3: “Sometimes when he came home early, I’d sit on the driveway and wait for him to come play baseball with me in the yard. And he’d do it sometimes. Um, and sometimes I’d just wait there just to see him. And I really loved my dad and tried to get his attention but it didn’t really work. He’d come to soccer games and like sports events so I played a lot of sports. Um. We didn’t talk about anything real. Ever.”

On p. 4, subject tells another moving example of the father’s neglect when asked if she ever felt rejected: “Umhmmm. A lot. I mean, I would always go to my dad when he was watching TV and just sit on the armrest of his chair and say, ‘Dad Dad Dad,’ over and over again. And he wouldn’t move, he wouldn’t say anything to me.”

**Mother neglect:** In that same passage on p. 4 regarding rejection, subject goes on to say that when her mother was busy with something, “She’d just put her finger up and be like, that means I have to go away. Um, stuff like that, just little things. They did it a lot.”

The narrative tells of a child hungry for attention from a father and mother who seemed to place little-to-no value on the child’s need for love and companionship, even ignoring her at times as if she didn’t exist and screaming and yelling at her at other times, and the child comes to feel she is not worthy of love. She would devise schemes to get the attention she so craved, playing sports to gain her father’s interest and faking illness to receive a mother’s care, yet was let down by them time and again, and apparently had no one else to show her dependable love.