Prototypical narrative patterns in initial psychotherapeutic interviews

Summary / Zusammenfassung
Narrators make use of storytelling to articulate a specific emotional organization, thus articulating aspects of an inner drama. Eight narrative episodes are selected from two initial psychodynamic interviews for a narrative analysis (the JAKOB psychodynamic analysis of narrative dramatics, Boothe 1994, Boothe and the Jakob group 2002). The data originated from Joerg Frommer’s research group at the University of Magdeburg, and the interviews, originally spoken in German, were transcribed according to the rules of the Ulm textbank and translated into English. The interviewees are two young women aged between twenty and thirty. The narrative analysis is based on the two interview texts without any supplementary information.

Purpose: The psychodynamic analysis of narratives aims to reconstruct the organisation of individual experience, subjective involvement and personal relationships. The systematic unfolding of the plots involved allows conflict and defence impulses to be modelled within the intersubjectively testable context of communication. Hypotheses can be formulated - and later tested - about the patients transference, for use in future therapy, and about the initial foci of the therapeutic work. The actual findings, showing a high degree of coherence and conciseness with regard to the narrative enactment of a specific emotional theme for each of the two interview partners, will be compared with the analyses and results of the other members of the Magdeburg research group.

Publications / Publikationen

Keywords / Suchbegriffe
Initial narrative,narrative analysis, psychodynamic conflict, enactment, narrative enactment, plot

Project Leadership and Contacts / Projektleitung und Kontakte
Prof. Dr. Brigitte Boothe (Project Leader) b.boothe@psychologie.uzh.ch
lic. phil. Marc Luder m.luder@psychologie.uzh.ch
lic. phil. Vera Luif v.luif@psychologie.uzh.ch

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