

The David Liberman algorithm, DLA
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The David Liberman algorithm (DLA) is a method based on two main Freudian concepts (libidinal drives and defenses as well as their state). The method proves useful to detect libidinal drives and defenses in the discourse of both patient and therapist during sessions (Maldavsky, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, 2003d, 2005; Maldavsky et. al, 2005, Maldavsky et al, 2007). The DLA detects the following libidinal drives: 1) intra-somatic libido (IL), 2) primary oral (O1), 3) secondary oral sadistic (O2), 4) primary anal sadistic (A1), 5) secondary anal sadistic (A2), 6) urethral phallic (UPH), 7) genital phallic (GPH). The DLA also can detect the following main pathological defenses: 1) repression, 2) disavowal, 3) foreclosure of reality and of the ideal, 4) foreclosure of the affect. Besides, the DLA allows to infer the following non pathological defenses: 1) in accordance with the goal, 2) creativity, 3) sublimation. The method also allows to infer whether the state of the defense is successful, failed or both. The method permits to research into the extra-transference and intra-session relationships, including the interventions of the therapist. Extra-transference relationships can be detected by studying the patient's narrations, whereas the intra-session relationships can be investigated by taking into account the patient's speech acts, and the paraverbal components. Table I shows the grid to analyze the libidinal drives which can be detected within narrations. The grid summarizes a more extended description of each type of narration. Table II shows a complementary grid which includes specific types of space, values, leaders, relative to each narration . In order to research the variety of manifestations that develop in intra-session relationships we have devised several tools 1) a grid for the analysis of speech acts (Table III), 2) a grid for the analysis of paraverbal components (Table IV), and 3) a grid for the analysis of motion. A sequence of steps allows to infer the main defense and its state (Table V) in both levels of analysis (extra-transference and intra-session). The DLA tools were tested on reliability and validity (Table VI).

Tables

Table I. Scenes and libidinal drives

Intersubjective trap 2

DRIVES	GENITAL PHALLIC	URETHRAL PHALLIC	SECONDARY ANAL SADISTIC	PRIMARY ANAL SADISTIC	SECONDARY ORAL SADISTIC	PRIMARY ORAL	INTRASOMATIC LIBIDO
SCENE							
Initial state	Aesthetic harmony	Routine	Hierarchic order	Natural legal equilibrium	Paradise	Cognitive peace	Equilibrium OF tensions
First transformation = Awakening of desire	Desire for aesthetic completion	Ambitious desire	Desire to dominate an object in the frame of a public oath	Desire driven by thirst for justice	Temptation Expiation	Abstract cognitive desire	Speculative desire
Second transformation= Attempt to consummate desire	Reception of a Power of gift	Finding the mark of the father deep inside the object	Discerning that the object is faithful to corrupt subjects	Revenge	Sin Reparation	Access to a truth	Gain in pleasure through organic intrusion
Third transformation=Consequences of the attempt to consummate desire	Pregnancy Aesthetic disorganization	Challenge of adventure Challenge of routine	Virtue recognized Social condemnation and moral expulsion	Leadership formally recognized and honored Being unable to move; being locked away and humiliated	Forgiveness and loving recognition Expulsion from Paradise	Recognition of genius Loss of lucidity; the other enjoys objective cognition	Organic euphoria Asthenia
Final state	Shared harmony Lasting feeling of disgust	Adventure Pessimistic routine	Moral peace Moral torment	Evocation of heroic past or Return to lasting peace Lasting resentment	Vale of tears Recovery of Paradise	Bliss in revelation Loss of the essence	Balance of tensions with no energy loss Lasting tension or asthenia

Intersubjective trap 3

Table II. Main features of each narration

	GPH	UPH	A2	A1	O2	O1	IL
1) attributes of the actors	Beauty-disgust	Dignity – indignity	Order and correction – disorder and incorrectness	Abuser – abused	Useful – unuseful	Hyper-lucid observer – object of observation and experimentation	Speculator - object of speculation
2) ideal	Beauty	Dignity	Order	Justice	Love	Abstract truth	Gain
3) collaborator	Adornments, persons (such as offspring), clothes, gifts, etc, that enhance charm (or inversely, that produce disgust	Objects (cars, horses, etc) that increases the potency or that accompany the one who advances (bewitching, psychic and their respective tools of power: crystal ball, owl, incantation, maps, co-pilot) or linked with chance and accidents in the attempt to advance	Objects that enable the subject to master concrete reality via knowledge (books, etc.), via cleanliness, via institutional hierarchies (statutes, contracts at the service of administrative control, son as a functionary), via rites (sacred objects, etc.)	Objects that enable the subject to attack or avoid or defend himself against physical aggression that involves use of alloplastic muscles (weapons, spies, informers, accomplices, trenches)	Objects given as a sacrifice (objective properties such as material possessions or subjective properties, such as time, effort, affect, a child)	Objects that allow the subject to observe the experimentation or anonymous attack from afar (telescope, computer, camera, nuclear reactor, a daughter's eyes, mind reader)	Objects that allow the subject to obtain economic gain or pleasure (artificial penis, erotic dolls, bonds, merchandise, a dowry)
4) leader	Queen	Sorcerer, oracle	Director of school, head of other institutions	Political conductor	Mother of A family	Mystic, philosopher	Capitalist
5) space	Theaters, dance halls, reception rooms	Passages, wide open spaces, closed spaces (neighborhood, club, bar), heights, depths	Ladder of status: church, school	Battle field, jungle, concrete jungle	Intimate space (kitchen, bedroom, home), cemetery	Interplanetary space, desert, laboratory, labyrinth, virtual space	Intra-bodily space, stock and investment broker, commodities exchanges, night clubs with bright

Intersubjective trap 4

								lights and deafening noise.
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Table III Speech acts and libidinal drives

LI	O1	O2	A1	A2	UPH
banality and inconsistency	abstract deduction	lament: "I could have been, but..." "I should have been... but"	offense, blasphemy and imprecation	proverbs, verdicts and maxims	popular proverbs
Flattery	metaphysical and mystic thinking	complaints and reproaches	curse: "i wish you would die", etc.	religious and ritualized invocations	premonitions and omens
references to state of things (weight/volume/quantity/thickness/deterioration)	denial that creates a logical contradiction in response to the other's statement	request and begging	slander, detracting and defamation	quotations	give or ask for advice
hyper-realism	logical paradoxes	asking of forgiveness and excuses	accusation and denunciation	information of facts	crutch words (eeh, you know) as a sign that the channel is occupied by the emitting
accounts	metalanguage (talking about language) or equivalent (talking about films, books, etc.)	condolence or commiseration	confessions of doing something against the law or moral precepts	description of concrete situations	warnings "be careful, because..."
catharsis	clue phrase	compassion and self compassion	incitement	conditional imperative "if...then", "no... because"	questions and statements about spatial or temporal localization
forcing into the alien discourse	interruptions because of sound vanishing	demand of love, recognition and emotional approval	distortion	public oath and imposition of obligations	disoriented sentences
interruptions because of sound languishing	ambiguity and lack of definition	affektive manipulation	abusive orders to do something opposed to the general law	contract	recovering or maintaining the orientation
references to body state and processes	references on disturbed states of the own body	appeasing submission	threats	orders, indications according with general law	disorientated sentences
		empathic understanding	intrusive interruption	asking for a permission	interruptions of the other person's or the subject's own discourse
		exaltation of	power show off	valuation	phrases in

		sacrifice		judgments and critical, linked with moral, cleanness, culture and order	suspense
		expression of the feeling of subject's own or others' uselessness	surrender or admission of defeat	references to a consensual concrete fact	pretext
		references to affective states	triumphal mockery	justifications of statements, words and acts	confidence
		references to states of things (weather, objects, aging)	boasting	clarifications: "that is, i mean"...	gossip
		references to doing an action		classification	ambiguity and avoidance
		interruptions (to swallow a word or syllable) or interrupting other person because of impatient feelings		distributive arguments: "each", "neither... nor"	greetings and other ways to make contact
				confirmation (or rectification) of other's opinion or asking for confirmation or rectification of subject's own opinion (consulting)	cautious approach
				syntactic rectification	accompanying the other person's discourse (m-hm, aha)
				correcting the subject's own or others' phrases	minimizers: "a little scared"
				ordering: on the one hand, on the other hand, in the first place, in	

				the second place, in the third place...	
				control of memory, the subject's own or another's: do you remember? do you understand me?	
				deduction, conjecture and concrete inference	
				concrete generalization	
				synthesis	
				introduction / close of a subject	
				doubts	
				presentation of alternatives "or.. or"	
				comparing between objective and hierarchic traits	
				description of position in the frame of an order or a social hierarchy	
				causal linking: "x because y", "if... then", or its questioning: "there is no relation between a and b" , "what does it matter?"	
				objections, opposing phrases and negation that confront affirmations, exaggeration ("not so much"), evaluation	

				notations and signaling	
				Abbreviations	
				what is it? what happens? why?	

Table IV. Paraverbal components and libidinal drives

LI	O1	O2	A1	A2	UPH	GPH
<u>Tone:</u> 1) apathetic	<u>Tone:</u> 1) metallic	<u>Tone:</u> 1) sardonic	<u>Tone:</u> 1) angry	<u>Tone:</u> 1) contemptuous depreciative	<u>Tone:</u> 1) anxious	<u>Tone:</u> 1) flattering
2) monotonous	2) languishing	2) depressive	2) upset and bored	2) ironic	2) distrustful	2) compliment
3) pleading	3) lack of affectivity	3) excited or manic	3) protest	3) rational	3) with excuses	3) promising
4) flattering	4) intellectual humor	4) desperate	4) suspicious	4) admonitory	4) whispering	4) inviting
5) sleepy	<u>Rhythm, timbre and sounds:</u> 1) lack of resonance	5) impatient	5) accusing	5) controlled	5) pessimistic	5) seductive
6) languishing	2) little difference in pitch	6) sarcastic	6) mockery	6) imperative	6) with proverbs	6) disgusting
7) bathroom humor	3) clucking sound of the tongue	7) reproaching	7) provocative	7) judgmental	7) pleasing	7) declamatory
8) lack of affectivity	4) clicking one's tongue	8) begging	8) insulting	8) critical	8) premonitory	8) infantile
9) infantile	5) "contained laughter" (with lips closed)	9) compassionate	9) arrogant	9) clarifying	9) corrosive and poignant humor	9) laughably
rhythm, timbre and sounds: 1) nasal		10) litany	10) insinuating	10) explaining	<u>rhythm, timbre and sounds</u> 1) shrill sounds	<u>rhythm, timbre and sounds</u> 1) hoarse
2) scream		11) pleasing	11) imperative	11) indicative	2) hissing sounds	2) exclamation of joy
3) acceleration		12) guilty	12) resentful	12) sententious	3) whistling	3) exclamation of anger
4) agitation		13)	13) spiteful	13) solemn	4) sudden	4) exclamation

		laughing			drop in sound intensity	of disgust
5) cough		14) choleric	14) choleric	14) doubtful		5) exclamation of surprise
6) sneeze		15) sardonic humor	15) threatening	15) gallows humor		6) exclamation of admiration
7) sniff		16) gallows humor	16) defiant	<u>rhythm, timbre and sounds</u> sustained		7) onomatopoeia
8) hiccup		17) festive humor	17) provocative and hurtful humor			8) coughing
9) bowel sounds		<u>rhythm, timbre and sounds</u> 1) whispering	<u>rhythm, timbre and sounds</u> 1) onomatopoeia			9) clearing the throat
10) clearing the throat		2) sobbing				
11) burp		3) painful (due to psychic pain)				
12) yawn		4) lament				
13) crying		5) laughing				
14) sobbing		6) acclamation				
15) pant		7) slowness				
16) slowness		8) shortening				
17) puffing						
18) complaint (about physical pain)						
19) litany						
20) onomatopoeia						
21) snuffling						
22) silly laugh						
23) quiet, muted						

24) grind						
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Table V. Overview of the steps in research of the main defenses

Problem	Procedure
1. To decide which defense prevails	Detecting which is the dominant language
2. To decide whether the defense is repression, disavowal, foreclosure or in accordance with the goals / creativity / sublimation	Detecting whether the language contained in the scene narrated harmonizes with the context
3. To decide whether the defense (repression, disavowal or foreclosure) is functional or pathological	Detecting whether one language dominates the others, or uses them and becomes hypertrophied
4. To decide whether the pathological defense is failed, successful or both	Detecting the position of the narrator and the prevalence of actions or states

Table VI. Testing DLA

Validity test of DLA

Contrasting DLA with studies with other instrument	Contrasting DLA with clinical research	Predictive value of DLA
Maldavsky, 1998, 2001a, 2001b, 2003a Maldavsky, Tebaldi, Cusien, Groisman, Pereyra, 2001 Maldavsky, Alvarez, Neves, Roitman, Tate de Stanley, 2003b Maldavsky et al, 2005, 2006 Goldberg, 2002 Kaufmann, 2007	Maldavsky, 1999, 2003b, 2003c Almasia, 2001 Maldavsky y Almasia, 2002 Maldavsky y Truscello de Manson, 2002 Kazez, 2002 Alvarez, 2001	Maldavsky et al. 2000, 2005, 2006 Maldavsky, Aguirre et al, 2007

Reliability tests of DLA

	Interjudges agreement	Application of the same tools to different fragments of the same case	Contrasting the results of various tools applied to the same material
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Drives	Maldavsky, 1998b Maldavsky <u>et al.</u> , 2000 Maldavsky, Alvarez, Neves, Roitman, Tate de Stanley, 2003a, 2003b Maldavsky, Aguirre, Iusim, Legaspi, Rodriguez, 2003 Maldavsky et al, 2005, 2006 Maldavsky, Álvarez, Caamaño, Goldberg, Plut, Sneiderman and Stein, 2007	Maldavsky <u>et al.</u> , 2000 Kazez, 2002, Maldavsky et al, 2005, 2006 Maldavsky, Aguirre et al, 2007	Maldavsky, 2002a, 2002b, 2002d, 2003a Maldavsky y Almasia, 2002 Maldavsky, Alvarez, Neves, Roitman, Tate de Stanley, 2003a, 2003b Maldavsky, Aguirre, Iusim, Legaspi, Rodriguez, 2003 Maldavsky et al., 2005, 2006
Defenses	Maldavsky, 1998b, 1999	Maldavsky <u>et al.</u> , 2000	Maldavsky 2002c, 2002d Maldavsky, Alvarez, Neves, Roitman, Tate de Stanley, 2003a, 2003b Maldavsky y Almasia, 2002 Maldavsky, Cusien, Roitman, Tate de Stanley, 2003 Kazez, 2002

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