

"Single case study of alliance in a family group"

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We intend to explore the unconscious alliance in a family group with pathological mourning

METHOD

We use for that the **DLA (David Liberman algorithm)** which is useful for the detection of wishes and defenses as well as their state. The method allows carrying out researches in the clinical field of couples, families and groups.

We had been presenting this method for several years at the SPR as well as in other international meetings. It is composed by the study of narrations, speech acts and words.

At this moment, we will use narrations to analyze the state and changes of normal and pathological alliance in three moments of the family history.

The systematic research of drives and defenses as well as their state, in the family members, allow us to infer the complexity of the unconscious alliance among them.

The analysis of the first narrative sequence explores the kind of alliance they had at the moment of the couple constitution.

The second takes into account the narration corresponding to the moment of de traumatic situation and the effects in the unconscious alliance

The third examines the state of the alliance between three members of the family group at the moment of the therapeutic consultation

Couple constitution	Silvia wish	main	Defense and state	Jorge wish	main	Defense and state
Being a small child Jorge lost his father				O2		
Together with his mother, he took care of his youngest brothers				A2		
As they were very poor he worked since he was very young				IL	IL	Foreclosure of affect Successful
Silvia's mother left the family home when she was a little girl	IL					
She felt herself loved and protected by her father	O2					
She was an anorexic, unsociable and unattractive girl	IL	IL	Foreclosure of affect Successful			
Jorge began to work at Silvia's father business and established a filial relationship with him				O2		
Silvia wanted to quit her family home	UPH					
They moved together to a bigger city to start a new life	UPH	UPH	In accordance with the goal Successful	O2	O2	Disavowal Successful

Couple constitution

First alliance:

Silvia: UPH -In accordance with the goal. Successful.
She fulfilled her desire to leave her home.

Jorge: O2 - Disavowal. Successful.

He fulfilled a loving desire of being included in a family.

Different wish, different defenses and the same state

Trauma	Silvia wish	Defense and state	Jorge wish	Defense and state
A newborn baby died a few months after the birth for an intestinal infection and they suffered a lot	O2	In accordance with the goal Failed	O2	In accordance with the goal Failed
Silvia got pregnant again and suffered a miscarriage	IL	Foreclosure of the affect failed		
Jorge exhausted himself working and Silvia cried for a very long time	O2	Disavowal Successful/ Failed	IL	Foreclosure of the affect Successful
Processing the traumatic situation				
Silvia got pregnant again and Jorge proposed to abort	GPH		IL	
Trying to protect her pregnancy, she took refuge in a friend's home	UPH			
They felt happy again when a new baby was born safe and healthy	GPH	In accordance with the goal Successful	GPH	In accordance with the goal Successful

Trauma

Second alliance:

Silvia: O2 – Disavowal S/F.

She couldn't accepted their lost

Jorge : LI – Foreclosure of the affect. Successful.

He balanced his stress at work

Different wish, different defense and different state

Further evolution	Silvia wish	defense	Jorge wish	defense	Pedro wish	defense
Since Pedro's birth, his mother had been worried for his health and took her to consult frequently	IL	Foreclosure of the affect Failed				
He was a solitary and anorexic boy and adolescent.					IL	Foreclosure of the affect Failed
Silvia traveled a lot and she only interrupted her trips because of the anguish that Pedro's illness caused to her	IL	Foreclosure of the affect Failed				
Jorge suffered economics fluctuations and was cheated by friends			IL	Foreclosure of the affect Failed		
Pedro has tried unsuccessfully to Include himself into his father business to helped him					O2	Disavowal Failed
Jorge suffered dangerous somatic crisis			IL	Foreclosure of the affect Failed		

Third moment

- ▣ Silvia: The anguish provoked by her son's health made the failure of her fly mechanism.
- ▣ Jorge: The stress balance that he tried to hold working, failed and the somatic manifestation appeared.
- ▣ Pedro: Placing himself as a link in the relationship with each parent, fluctuates between a depressive state of mind and a somatic manifestation.

Conclusion

▣ First moment: Couple constitution:

They built a successful and complementary alliance. Each of them fulfilled his/her desire with successful defenses, in accordance with the goal

▣ Second moment: Trauma

In the moment of the mourning, both resorted to different pathological defenses. Jorge to a successful foreclosure of the affect and Silvia to a successful/failed disavowal.

Third moment:

Further evolution in the family alliance:

At the beginning a pathological equilibrium has been supported between a successful fly mechanism in Silvia and a successful foreclosure of the affect in Jorge. In this situation, Pedro remained outside this alliance.

Another moment was when Pedro included himself in this alliance, trying to be Jorge's support, resorting to a failed disavowal, which threw him into an organic disease which expressed the failure of the foreclosure of the affect. This outcome made Silvia's successful defense failed, leaving her sunk into anguish and Jorge's failed foreclosure of the affect immerse him into an organic disease.

Thank you