

Maldavsky et al., (2004b) Psychotherapy Treatment focuses in a tattooed patient. The David Liberman Algorithm Method (ADL), SPR Meeting, Roma 2004.

Researching libidinal fixations and defenses into tattooed jailed adolescents using DLA (David Liberman algorithm)

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I. Problem

Which are the libidinal fixations and the corresponding pathogenic defenses and their state in tattooed adolescent with antisocial manifestations?

II. Method

The method used (DLA, David Liberman algorithm) offers multivariate results concerning libidinal fixations [intrasomatic libido (IL); primary oral (O1); secondary oral sadistic (O2); primary anal sadistic (A1); secondary anal sadistic (A2); urethral phallic (UPH) and genital phallic (GPH)], and defenses (functional, repression, disavowal, forclusion of the reality and the ideal, forclusion of the affection).

Some tools for the analysis of erogeneities and defenses are available, specially a grid for the study of narrations (Graphic I).

III. Sample

The sample studied consists of 10 adolescent under judiciary psychological attention, and having the same tattoo (five dots, meaning a defiant message against the police), usual among jailed people.

Graphic I. Grid of the scenes in the narrative sequences

<u>EROTICISM</u> <u>SCENE</u>	GENITAL PHALLIC	PHALLIC URETHRAL	SECONDARY ANAL SADISTIC	PRIMARY ANAL SADISTIC	SECONDARY ORAL SADISTIC	PRIMARY ORAL	INTRA-SOMATIC LIBIDO
Initial state	Aesthetic harmony	Routine	Hierarchical order	Natural legal equilibrium	Paradise	Cognitive peace	Equilibrium between tensions
First transformation = Awakening of desire	Desire for aesthetic completion	Ambitious desire	Desire to dominate an object in the framework 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-Gift	Finding the mark of the father deep in 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, honoured 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

Graphic II: Main features of the sample

Name	Age	Family	Judiciary cause	Consumption	Body alterations and marks in the skin	Somatic implications in the fratria	Age of tattooing	Procedure of tattooing	School
Lorena	18	Mother: abandoning Father: alcoholic	Robbery	Injectable cocaine, crack, psychotropic, alcohol	Scars in arms, tattoos	Sister died in an accident	13 years old	Cigarette	Abandoned the elementary school
Gastón	18	Mother: leukemia plus diabetic Father: died 4 years ago	Robbery with weapon	Cocaine, psychotropic, pot, alcohol	Tattoos	Two elder brother committed suicide	First period of adolescence	Ink, at home	Abandoned the elementary school
Luis	17	Father: abandoning and severely depressed	Robbery with weapon	Cocaine, pot, alcohol	Scars in arms, tattoos		15 years old	Ink, at home	Abandoned the elementary school
Pablo	16	Mother: depressed Father: abandoning	Robbery	Cocaine, glue, pot, alcohol	Lost of the right ocular glob, fracture of maxilar and lumbar vertebrae, tattoos	Oldest brother abandoned the parental home at the age of 14	15 years old	Ink, at home	Abandoned the elementary school
Ariel	18	Father with severe suicidal attempt	Robbery with weapon	Cocaine, pot, alcohol	Scars in arms, tattoos		18 years old	Ink, at home	Finished the elementary school
Carmen	16	Mother and father: abandoning	Robbery	Cocaine, crack, alcohol	Tattoos		13 years old	Ink, at home	Almost finished the secondary school
Beto	17	Mother: abandoning Father: rival	Robbery with weapon	Cocaine, glue, pot, alcohol	Scars in arms, tattoos		14 years old	Ink, at home	Abandoned the elementary school
Luis A.	18	Mother: hyperprotective Father: alcoholic	Robbery with weapon	Cocaine, pot, alcohol	Tattoos		14/15 years old	Ink, at home	Abandoned the elementary school

Santiago	14	Mother: with VIH, abandoning Father: with VIH, delinquent, abandoning	Infraction to drugs laws	pot	Tattoos		13 years old	Ink, home	at	Finished the elementary school
Verónica	20	Mother: abandoning, prostitute	Robbery	Cocaine, pot, alcohol	VIH, tattoos	Couple died by VIH	12 years old	Ink, home	at	Abandoned the elementary school

Material: Clinical interviews, mostly recorded, some of them summarized.

IV. Analysis

IV. 1. Eroticisms

Main eroticism detected in the narration and phrase levels are: IL, O2, A1, GPH.

Graphic III. Main Eroticism detected in the sample

Name	IL	O2	A1	GPH	Main
Lorena	X	X	X	X	A1
Gastón	X	X	X	X	O2
Luis	X	X	X		A1
Pablo	X	X	X	X	A1
Ariel	X	X	X	X	A1/O2
Carmen	X	X	X	X	A1
Beto	X	X	X	X	A1
Luis A.	X	X	X	X	O2
Santiago	X	X	X	X	O2
Verónica	X	X	X	X	A1

IL	100%
O2	100%
A1	100%
GPH	90%

GPH had a complementary value: it allowed the patient to have a seductive appearance rapidly failed. O2 introduced references to a paradise lost in which love and sacrifice prevails into the family, A1 corresponded to the feeling of injustices suffered and the failure of the attempts of vengeance (A1) and the anecdotes referring to the alien or the self body alteration (for example, the fact of tattooing), corresponded to IL. All the stories had dysphoric versions.

IV. 2. Defenses

Graphic IV. Type and state of the main defenses

Type	State	Percentage
Disavowal/Forclusionion of the reality and the ideal	Successful/failed	100%
Forclusionion of the affection	Failed	100%

Disavowal and forclusionion of the reality and the ideal corresponds to O2 and A1, and forclusionion of the affection is connected with IL. This last mechanism leads to inner or alien body alteration.

V. Discussion

Pathological regression from dysphoric versions of O2 (corresponding to the feeling of having a Paradise lost and unsuccessful tendencies to the sacrifice) and A1 (corresponding to impotent feelings of injustice, humiliation and shame) to IL (alien or self body alteration) and the corresponding defenses appeared as a prevalent dynamic process.

The central conflict included the endlessness multiplication of feelings of pain and fury because of losing the Paradise (O2) and the feelings of injustice and humiliation (A1). Unsuccessful defenses against reality and their ideal (disavowal, forclusionion) prevailed. From this central conflict a pathogenic regression to IL and failed forclusionion of the affection occurred.

The combination between erogeneities and defenses allows us to understand some specific psychic process. The combination of IL and forclusion of the affection leads us to understand why the patient did a tattoo. The combination of O2 and specially A1 and disavowal or forclusion of the reality and the ideal allows us to understand the kind of defiant message contained in it.

Disavowal and forclusion of the reality and the ideal are opposed to the same things, but using different resources and having different pathological consequences. Disavowal appears in some narcissistic traits of character, and forclusion of the reality and the ideal corresponds to the psychosis. Studying carefully a single case of the sample, it is possible to notice that both defenses appeared, but in different stories. When the anecdote referred to friends, brothers, sister, etc., failed disavowal prevailed. When the anecdote referred to father's relationship or its equivalent, successful/failed forclusion of the reality and the ideal prevailed. It is possible to infer that in each case some narcissistic traits of pathological character and psychosis coexisted with the tendency to inner body alteration (toxic and traumatic orientation).

Summarizing, in the 10 cases DLA detected three groups of erogeneities and defenses: 1) more superficiality, an exhibitionist façade, including GPH and functional defenses, 2) a central structure, based on O2 (centered in the wish of recovering the Paradise lost) and A1 (centered in the wish of vengeance and the feeling of injustice) and a mix between disavowal and forclusion of the reality and the ideal, and 3) a major (decisive) regressive pathological step, in which IL and forclusion of the affection, having a great efficacy on the body alteration in him/her self and in the other, prevails.

The results of the present research can be compared with another one (Romano and Maldavsky, 2004) on the discourse of a patient with a tattoo of a devil in his arm. The patient was 22 years old and was immersed in an extended mourning state. In his discourse IL, O2, A2, UPH and GPH coexisted. Initially IL prevailed, substituted later by UPH. The defenses switched from disavowal of the reality and forclusion of the affection to repression. Those results are just partially coincident with the ones of the 10 cases now studied. It's possible to infer that the ensemble between erogeneities and defenses prevailing in the 10 patients of the sample constitutes just a partial component of the psychic structure of this other patient, and that in him other combinations can become relevant. Perhaps in the patients of the present sample could also have these other combinations, but they were not available in the moment of their treatment, because of a more serious pathological regression.

It's possible to distribute the 10 cases in three groups: 1) the most pathological one, in which successful forclusion of the reality and the ideal, failed forclusion of the affection and successful disavowal prevailed, 2) the less pathological one, in which failed forclusion of the affection and failed disavowal prevailed, and 3) an intermediate one, in which failed forclusion of the affection and failed disavowal was combined with a certain efficacy of failed forclusion of the reality and the ideal.

VI. Conclusions

Besides, it's possible to connect this analysis with the proposals of attachment theory. Although our results coincide with this proposals, we add some nuances and precisions (corresponding to the specific value of IL, O2 and A1) to them.

Using DLA method it is possible to infer that in the 10 cases a pathological regression from impotent feelings of injustice and of lacking of love (combined with failed defenses like disavowal and forclusion of the reality and the ideal) to the tendency to

a self body alteration (combined with failed forclusion of the affection) can be found. In the 10 cases DLA detected three groups of erogeneities and defenses: 1) more superficiality, an exhibitionist façade, including GPH and functional defenses, 2) a central structure, based on O2 (centered in the wish of recovering the lost Paradise thanks to the self sacrifice) and A1 (centered in the wish of vengeance and the feeling of injustice) and a mix between disavowal and forclusion of the reality and the ideal, and 3) a major (decisive) regressive pathological step, in which IL and forclusion of the affection, having a great efficacy on the body alteration in him/her self and in the other, prevails.

Those results can be clearly contrasted with the one of a tattooed patient with a less serious psychic structure.

The 10 cases can be distribute in three groups with different degrees of pathological uses of defense mechanisms.