

Research of wishes and defenses of the patient's enacted and narrated episodes,

applying the David Liberman algorithm (DLA)

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I. Goal: to detect changes on wishes and defenses (as well as their state) in the patient's speech acts in relationship with the issues of her narrations during the sessions

II. Sample: Fernanda, who is in a trial with her ex husband, Pablo, for the custody of their son Ramiro, begins the session telling that she had been in court that day. Her former husband doesn't provide the money she needs. She narrates certain complications in the trial, mostly caused by her ex husband's actions. Fernanda claims to be getting into a madness state, while she feels that her ex husband remains in silence, in stand by, without appearing. She adds that her husband damages her "because he is already suffocating us with the money". Then Fernanda narrates the visit of her ex mother in law, who collaborated with food and money for expenses. During this encounter, the lady told her to resort to her uncle to get money. She also narrates that her father tries to avoid her and that makes her angry. Then she alludes in an insistent way to her lawyer, Alejandra, who doesn't give enough importance to the cause, doesn't move enough. Fernanda assumes that as Alejandra hasn't received any money yet, that is why she takes this attitude. Then she narrates an episode in which Alejandra lends her money to pay a task. Fernanda considers that if she offers to lend her money it is because she feels or knows that she is doing something wrong. Then the patient refers to the project of a future job. For that she needs to commute two hours daily. The schedule covers a big part of her day and the payment is low. Fernanda continues with a new narration related to the inheritance of (valuable plots of land from his grandparents. Taking advantage of Nelly, a friend who is a lawyer and has to travel to a place near these lands, Fernanda requests her to find out in which condition is her grandmother's succession. In the present, her cousins are taking advantage of these lands by sowing wheat, and Fernanda expects to claim a percentage of the profit it leaves. Further on, Fernanda says that she feels exhausted by Ramiro, her son. This one requests a lot of things, among them money for the end of the year's party and for a t-shirt. In this situation, the therapist insists that Ramiro should resort to his father and ask him for the money. Finally, Fernanda narrates a situation with Osvaldo, her current couple. She sort of expressed that her ex husband has a small penis. Osvaldo responds qualifying her as bugged and she explains that she isn't used to tell this to anyone and that she told told him as a joke. Fernanda feels certain distance from Osvaldo. Sometimes he doesn't kiss

her. Then she narrates an episode where Osvaldo, half asleep, “put my clothes down and started touching me”. This upset and scared her. So he apologised and claimed not to remember what he had done. She had remained thinking that he could have not been able to stop and do things she didn’t want.

III. Instruments: 1) grids for the analysis of wishes in narrations and speech acts and 2) a sequence of instructions for the analysis of the defenses and their state. Both tools (grids and sequence of instructions) integrate the David Liberman algorithm (DLA) and are useful for the study of speech acts.

Table I shows the inventory of wishes and defenses and their state.

Table I: Inventory of wishes, defenses and state.

Drives	Defenses	State
IL	Foreclosure of the affect	Successful
O1 O2 A1	Disavowal	
	Foreclosure of reality and the ideal	
A2 UPH GPH	Repression with or without characterologic traits	Failed
LI O1 O2 A1 A2 UPH GP	In accordance with the goal	
	Inhibition	
	Creativity	
	Sublimation	

IV. Procedure: 1) analysis of wishes and defenses (and their state) in the narrations distributed into five topics, 2) analysis of wishes and defenses (and their state) in the speech acts corresponding to the patient’s discourse in this five topics, 3) establishment of relationships between the analysis of wishes and defenses (and their state) in the narrations and in the speech acts.

V. Analysis of wishes and defenses (and their state) in the narrations contained in each topic.

We have grouped the narrations provided by the patient into 5 topics: 1) relationship with her ex husband and her son, 2) relationship with the lawyers, 3) relationship with her job, 4) relationship with the inheritance of goods, 5) recent relationships (with her ex mother in law, with her new couple).

A situation of stand by prevails in topic 1, derived from the absence of the ex husband, who doesn't contribute the money she needs, while the son formulates demands that require expenses she cannot afford. IL and failed foreclosure of the affect.

A situation of paralysis of the judgements (that she started to her ex husband for the arise of the maintenance) prevails in topic 2, due to the fact that she can't pay the lawyers. She affirms that the lawyers are going to keep the biggest part of the money she gets in the trial, and narrates an episode in which one of them lends her money to pay a tax. IL and successful foreclosure of the affect.

The reference to the beginning of a new job, in which she is going to receive a small salary, predominates in topic 3. A2 and successful defense in accordance with the goal.

The reference to the high value of the goods she thinks she possesses for legacy of her grandparents is dominant in topic 4. IL and successful foreclosure of the affect.

The reference to a mother in law that gives her money for the payment of medical expenses, prevails in topic 5, as well as the reference to a current couple with whom a reciprocal avoidance link prevails towards the intrusion the sleep. IL and successful foreclosure of the affect.

VI. Analysis of wishes and defenses (and their state) in the speech acts contained in each topic..

Table II: Frequency distribution of the wishes in the speech acts differentiated by topics

	1	2	3	4	5
Wish	%	%	%	%	%
IL	0.9	1.3	3	2.1	1.3
O1	0.3	0.43	0	0	0

O2	0.3	0.9	4.4	0.42	0
A1	0.3	0.9	0	0	1.8
A2	61.8	57.7	52.5	53.36	60.3
UPH	25.45	23.8	19.1	26.9	21.4
GPH	11	14.9	20.6	17.23	15.2
INC	0	0.2	0.5	0	0
	100	100	100	100	100

Table III: Cut points (percentiles 15 and 85) in the standard deviation in the speech acts

	Percentile 15	Percentile 85
IL	0.22	4.29
O1	0.00	0.87
O2	1.05	7.59
A1	0.00	0.51
A2	46.20	58.74
UPH	20.78	27.97
GPH	7.35	20.82

In topics 1, 2, 4 and 5, O2 has a very low percentage expression, and it is combined with the successful inhibition. In topics 2 and 5, A1 has an excessive percentage expression, and it is combined with the repression+characterologic traits.

In topic 3, UPH has a low percentage expression, and it is combined with inhibition, while GPH has an excessive percentage expression, and it is combined with repression+characterologic traits.

VII. Discussion

Among the five clusters of narrations, IL prevails in four of them. In one of them it is combined with the functional successful defense, while in the others it is linked to foreclosure of the affect. Among these three endings, in two occasions the pathological defense is successful (the patient manages to get some expenses to be paid), but in the third

one the defense fails (the patient doesn't have money to pay the expenses of the trial, and her husband, from whom she depends economically, has disappeared). This third ending, in which the pathologic defense fails, seems to be the conflictive nucleus, and the other two seem to operate as partial, substitutive compensations.

At the same time, in the two remaining topics, which correspond to other attempts to face the same problems, successful functional defenses predominate. However, in both topics the narrations are basically referred to projects, instead of references to decisions and actions already carried out.

To sum up, from a conflictive nucleus characterized by the failure of foreclosure of the affect combined with IL, four attempts of solution are developed in the patient, from which two correspond to successful versions (in a small scale) of this same pathologic defense, while the other two constitute basically projects still not consummated, in which successful functional defenses predominate.

In regards the percentages of the analysis of the speech acts for the narrations of each topic, one of the most remarkable ones is the low percentage of O2 in all those occasions where IL prevails in the topics of the narrations, particularly when this wish is combined with pathologic defenses.

It is also possible to notice that, in the three thematic groups of narrations in which foreclosure of the affect prevails (1, 2 and 5), A1 has a percentage weight superior to the one expected.

Likewise, in topic 3, the only one in which the patient alludes to her own labour situation, we may notice an inversion of the predominances between UPH and GPH. GPH acquires more weight than UPH, differently from what occurs in the speech acts corresponding to the rest of the topics, and also the weight of both is, for UPH, beyond the expected, and for GPH, above such values.

In two occasions A2 throws results of high percentages. Both correspond to the relationships with couples, current or past, in which IL prevails, accompanied by failed defenses regarding the matrimonial couple but by successful defenses in the present.

VIII. Conclusions

When the speculation or the somatic intrusion prevails in the narrations without the attenuation of a labour project, the O2 wishes remain inhibited. In a minor scale, in this occasions, A1 wishes are combined with the successful pathological defense in the speech acts.

When the patient alludes in the narrations to her couple relationships (current or past), the A2 wishes in the speech acts are combined with repression+characterologic traits.