

Analysis of spatial organization of interpersonal relations

Melinda Pohárnok

University of Pécs, Institute of Psychology Pécs, Ifjúság útja 6. 7624
pomel@freemail.hu

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The method of narrative psychological contentanalysis affords the opportunity to capture such inherent structural characteristics of narrative which have psychological meaning. It is presumed that beside the narrator's perspective and the temporal dimension of the narrative, the patterns and changes of spatial relations of characters could be also considered as significant narrative feature. The existence of an interpersonal or interactive space which is organised by the relation of the self to other/s is assumed. The extremities of this space would be the self and the other, and their movements in relation to each other could be regarded as the fundamental characteristic of their interpersonal relationship. On the one hand the relationship of self and other can be described as movements in the concrete, physical space: in a „toward him (with him)“ – „from him (without him)“ dimension. On the other hand it can be depicted as the intersubjective aspect of interactive space: as states of sharing (understanding) – lack of sharing (lack of understanding). According to psychoanalytical object-relational theories (Mahler, 1975) and theories of self-development (Stern, 2002) this dimension plays an important role in the early interactive- and self-organization. As a consequence the analysis of spatial organization of interpersonal relations has become essential in the case of biographical narratives. In the research group we are working on an „Approachment-Avoidance“ module applied by the LintagTi software – developed by Morphologic Ltd. The module deals with the co-occurrence of given verbal categories – so called „relation-verbs“ – and given nouns – common nouns referring to significant others. So it can be used for identifying Approach-Avoidance verbal groups as text-codes. The resultant codes are applied to the corpus by the AtlasTi software. In our presentation the operation of the Approach-Avoidance module will be illustrated.