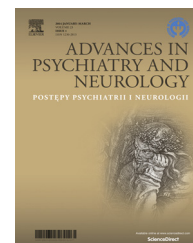


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Review/ Praca poglądowa

Ethics in communication with patients in the state of disorders of consciousness. Natural situation and the use of modern technologies[☆]



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ABSTRACT

Communication is a very important part of the human activity on very many levels. Communication with the patient has become an important part of the personalized health care and it plays an important role in the diagnosis, and also at each stage of treatment and rehabilitation. Not always, however, you can realize a natural communication situation due to dysfunctions, disorders and injuries. In particular, it is difficult for the unresponsive patients such as patients with disorders of consciousness. At this work we have compared the communication in the natural situations (communication as the sharing) with the communication in the unnatural situation, for unresponsive patients (communication extended), indicating is also the ethical context of communication with patients.

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Introduction

Communication is a very important element in the space of the clinics and in contact with the patient. Just the section on communication (not the most important and the most extensive range) is related to the transfer of information. Such situations are unavoidable in the natural situation, and it is similar in the clinical hospital. Even more, it is not entitled to treat communication as the transmission of information that puts language in its center. It is an approach that has no justification evolutionary, but also there is no justification for development. In both these dimensions, communication is earlier than the language acquisition and language. Communication is much wider scope as here. Communicative competence is ahead and is not limited to linguistic competence. This problem becomes even more important in the case of patients who not only cannot communicate linguistically and transmit information (including direct always bound), but they have completely or substantially impaired and generally dysfunctional communication skills, especially in view of the executive. That is why it is very important to give the outline of this kind of communication in a natural situation, in order to then identify how it looks, especially when implementing the communication situation we refer to tools and methods made possible by modern technology, beyond this natural dimension. Therefore, communication (communication as the sharing) becomes a very important ethical issue where the moral imperative is to enable to reach the remains of communicative competence separated by the disease.

Natural communications situation

Communication is the basis of human social functioning. At the same time it is a root for every interaction which took place between people. Due to huge role in modern world of information and technological development, language is concerned to take very important role, treating it as a natural or artificial medium. In this way communication becomes reduced to information transfer. The model here is a conduit metaphor. Model of communication which implements conduit metaphor is usually supported by some version (often very extended) of Shannon model [1]. Hence, most of communication concepts realize conduit metaphor like if it were a very developed model of ecological concept.

These models put a language in the center of communication. It can be characterized as: language-centered (the center and foundation of communication is language), linear (communication is the transfer of informations on the cord), sequential (preserved sequence of consecutive group stages – parts of communication) and alternating (analogous to a tennis match – changing roles of sender and receiver). Their effectiveness presupposes above all efficiency in generation and language processing and its understanding not only in cultural matter but also in biological dimension specifically in neural or neurophysiological. For participants without dysfunction such condition with an appropriate

level of enculturation and socialization is fulfilled. However, in case of patient with dysfunctions these models do not give capability of communication.

These models completely ignore fact, that communication is evolutionarily formed intersubjective skill.

Intersubjectivity. Communication competences

It was necessary much earlier for interaction and social relations much then moment when language showed up. Intersubjectivity is a basic competence for communication as sharing. It consists of five elements which are developed during the early years of human being. These elements are: sharing of emotion, sharing of attention, sharing of intention, sharing of beliefs and sharing of knowledge.

Communication as sharing and its components

Communication as sharing [2] consists of 3 elements: sharing of motor cognition (joint action), sharing of mind (shared mind) and sharing of culture (common culture).

The communication counts the presence of another person, preferably in face-to-face. In this situation it can act as sharing at all levels (motor, mental and cultural). The description of these components may be performed at different levels and with different theoretical languages. This may be a behavioral description. It also could be a description of the functional and structural brain mechanisms. Finally it may be a description with reference to neural networks and synchronizing oscillation mechanism connecting them (as in recently published articles by Chris Frith and Karl Friston).

Intersubjectivity as a potential capacity and sharing elements [3] are innate (as simple emotions, the ability to recognize characteristics of voice melody and mother language, ability to imitate). They are giving the beginning to develop communicative competences in infants before they will start acquiring native language. Social competences to intersubjectivity as a sharing capabilities develops parallel to the development of child brain. Already then neural networks can be modeled in case of neurodevelopmental dysfunctions predictions [4].

Extended communication

Communication is a natural process which is proceeding according to the assumption and a description of communications as sharing. Currently, in moment of enormous technological development and widespread and inevitable usage of its results as media and virtual reality, we are dealing with a new phenomenon. Common and continuous usage of a mentioned achievements of the technological development leads to extension of human cognitive abilities, especially mental sharing. It is said that obtaining of an experts level in field of these of the tools may lead to enhancement of our mind. However this is natural situation with normally functioning cognitive system and its

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