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PSI IN EVERYDY SOCIAL INTERACTION

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Background: This project examines how psi communication emerges in talk-in-interaction, its poetic configurations, what this reveals about intersubjectivity processes. Previous research on poetic confluence phenomena has established their robustness, features, what they tell us about human relationality (e.g.: embodied intersubjectivity, interpersonal resonance, permeability of the physical body).

Aims: To explore the poetics of accounts of ostensibly telepathic moments that occur in everyday life. A main assumption is that the (psi) event described in the accounts (the *aboutness*) feeds back in specific ways with the narrative(poetics)-in-interaction displayed to convey it.

Method: Our current data collection consists of 52 accounts (nearly 50 people represented) on enigmatic communication. Analysis is framed in the overlapping methodologies of narrative and talk-in-interaction.

Results: The cases involve: identity work; metacommunication; influence of interactional dynamics (intersubjectivity, interpersonal resonance) over *aboutness*; a poetic infrastructure including a narrative framework ('small stories') and the operation of the poetic principle of parallelism. We see how apparent speech errors or unusual turns of phrase are fulfilling an interactional function: to trigger and mark convergence/resonance between interlocutors (between a spoken utterance and unarticulated thoughts). It is observed that the expression of those micro-events is achieved through manifestations of parallelism across different levels of the structure. These aesthetic qualities appear both in features of the production of the data, and in the experiences reported on in those. The results suggest that the poetic principle of parallelism might provide an overarching perspective (descriptive and explanatory) to advance in the analysis of an aesthetics of communication that includes enigmatic instances.

Conclusions: In accordance with a growing acknowledgement on the narrative nature of consciousness, this project contributes to refine concepts on the poetic/narrative articulation of intersubjectivity via psi communication in everyday interaction. In particular, through the lens provided by the narrative framework of 'small stories' and by the poetic principle of parallelism. Finally, the project makes a case for the value of anecdotal data as valid evidence in academic research, esp. with respect to empirical inquiry for which conventional data sources are absent or difficult to obtain.

Keywords: Psi communication, Interactional poetics, Narrative, Intersubjectivity

Publications:

Wooffitt, R., Fuentes-Calle, A., Campbell, R. (2020) Small stories with big implications. Identity, relationality and aesthetics in accounts of enigmatic communication. *Narrative Inquiry*. doi: 10.1075/ni.20013.woo

Theoretical article (in progress), after presentation "Poetic patterns of connectedness (parallelism) in episodes of 'anomalous' communication" Fuentes-Calle, A., in panel

'The poetic function and social meaning in language' at the 17th International Pragmatics Conference, Winterthur, 2021.

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