

## SUCCESION AND SIMULTANEOUSNESS OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGIC EXPERIENCES

G. Popov, N. Keranova

Key-words: thinking — succession — simultaneousness — schizophrenia — diagnosis

During the period till 1983 our investigations of the complex problem of time enabled us to define some formulations concerning the functions and importance of succession and simultaneousness of personal experiences with normal and pathological conditions (4). Then our studies included also the category space and as result from it the terms succession and simultaneousness broadened their meaning scope (5, 6). In this paper some general theoretic-methodological conclusions of our achievements will be shortly drawn.

In its development, the brain had to reflect not only the simultaneously entering (simultaneous) but also the successive irritants from the objective reality (7). Still more, it has gained the ability to integrate the successions into a simultaneousness and to «decompose» the simultaneousness into successions. On this basis perceptions, thinking, memory and other psychic spheres are formed and on this basis their pathological changes can be analysed. We will illustrate this statement by an example related to thinking, speech and language.

During the analysis of thinking disorders in psychopathology one does not render account to an efficient degree of the existence of various stages of thought formation till its exploration into speech. Thus, the clarifying of the fundamental problem concerning the genesis of thinking disorders and also concerning thinking as a highest achievement of live matter evolution at all is troubled.

From the psycholinguistic point of view the most fundamental problem of written or spoken language consists in transformation of complexes of jointly existing impressions or ideas into a successive series of linguistic expressions (10, 11). In the thirties of the present century the eminent Soviet psychologist L. S. Vigotskiy paid attention to the fact that between thinking and speech there was an unity but not an identity, too. Thought was not simply expressed by words but ended with words. There existed a very important moment in the process of speech thinking formation clarified by Vigotskiy by the following way (2):

«. . . Thought does not consists in single words as speech does. If I want to quote my thought that today I have seen a boy in blue blouse and barefooted running on the street, I do not see separately the boy, separately the blouse, separately that it is blue. . . I see all that together, in an united act of the thought but I divide it in speech into single words. . . The public speaker develops often during several minutes one and the same thought. This thought is comprised in his brain as a whole but it does not originate bit by bit, in single units as his speech develops. That what is simultaneously comprised in the thought displays successively in the speech. Thought could be compared with beetling rain-cloud from which a rain of words lashed down».

We allow us to quote this more comprehensive citation because it contains insights important for our thesis. This citation can be summarized in one sentence only: Passing of thinking into speech is related with passing of simultaneousness into succession. And on this basis the genesis of some forms of thinking pathology can be analysed, too.

Broken thinking in its various variances can be most generally defined as a defect in succession of thinking, in its mental-logical, syntactical and other succession. However, as it is already clear, thought can not be defined as succession at all its stages. One can speak about a true succession hardly at the level of speech exploration of thought. Therefore, a presumption regularly rises that one of the basic moments of the genesis of broken thinking presents the existence of a certain lesion during the process of passing of simultaneousness into succession. In this context one can discuss also some normal psychological phenomena such as ability for thought verbalization (including also the so-called orator's capacities) and the difficulties in verbalization when sthenic emotions interfere, etc.

In the spirit of reasonings presented the thinking ambivalence, autism as well as pathological phenomena of the rest psychical spheres could be analysed. The problem of «simultaneousness — succession» deals also with dialogism in verbal communication, some peculiarities of art thinking (1), the mechanisms of therapeutic effect of the music but first of all it deals with the general and the differences between time and space in experiences.

Experiences as an attribute of consciousness present the terminal integration of thinking, memory, will, intellect, inclinations in the gravitation field of emotional life. Experiences of succession and simultaneousness are in fact experiences of time and space.

Succession is a property of time but simultaneousness characterizes both space and time. Not only the objects in the space but also the events in the time can be simultaneous. At personality level, the crossing point of time and space and, of «succession-simultaneousness», respectively, is the psychological presence which is a function from the experience of simultaneousness of the events. On these at first sight formal-theoretical formulations the substantial aspect of normal-psychological and psychopathological experiences is formed.

As demonstrated by our and foreign investigations in normal conditions the past, presence and future are clearly differentiated and in the same time related to each other which reflects the optimal correlations and the dialectics between simultaneousness and successiveness as well as the flexible gradation of the one into the other (3, 10). Psychotic disturbances and disadaptations obligatorily include disorders of time and space structure and of their mutual pervasion. At psychotic level one observes chaotic interweaving of time and space measurements which lose their cognitive value (8, 9).

Concretely, our results obtained with schizophrenia patients demonstrated the lack of clear borderlines between the presence, past and future and a disintegration of the complex «simultaneousness-succession», respectively. It seemed that the ill person tended to comprehend every thing in its simultaneous existence and by this way he ignored the succession of development. This was revealed not only by tests for time evaluation but also by some projective methods such as TAT and Rorschach's test, e. g. by schizophrenia-specific phenomenon of simultaneousness (contamination) of images (3). It was also detected in psychotic experiences of the patients registered during the clinical examination.

Ultimately, the practical value of the information about these questions is related to enrichment of personality diagnostics and differential diagnosis, to constructing of an adequate therapeutic and rehabilitation strategy and not in the last place — to the rendering account of the therapeutic effectiveness.

## Conclusion

CNS capacity to integrate successions into simultaneousness and to «decompose» simultaneousness into successions is a high achievement in brain development and thus presents one of the fundamentals on which the whole psychic human life grows. The flexible combination of simultaneousness and succession in thinking, emotions, memory, will and other phenomena is a precondition for an optimal psychic health. Their disintegration, however, presents an essential factor for the genesis of some main psychopathological disturbances and for orientation in their clinico-psychological problematics.

## REFERENCES

1. Бахтин, Б. Проблемы на поетиката на Достоевски. С., Наука и изкуство, 1976. —
2. Выготский, Л. С. Избранные психологические исследования. М., 1956. — 3. Кузнецов, О. Н. В: Фактор времени в функциональной организации деятельности живых систем. Под ред. Н. И. Мойсеевой. Л., 1980, 135—140. — 4. Попов, Г. Канд. дис. Варна, ВМИ, 1983. — 5. Попов, Г., Е. Събева. Пространствено представяне на времеве преживявания при психично болни лица. — В: Науч. сес. ВМИ — Варна, XIII. Варна, 13. IV. 1985 г. — 6. Попов, Г. *Неврол., психиатр. и неврохирург.*, 1986, № 2, 41—47. — 7. Ушаков, Г. К. Детская психиатрия. М., Медицина, 1973. — 8. G o r m a n, B., A. W e s s t a n. In: The Personal experience of time. New York, etc., Plenum Press, 1977, 217—263. — 9. O r m e, J. E. Experience and Behaviour. London etc., Liffe Books Ltd, and New York, Elsevier Publ. Comp., 1969. — 10. R i e g e l, K. In: The Personal experience of time. New York, etc., Plenum Press, 1977, 59—108. — 11. S l o b i n, D. I. Psycholinguistics. New York, 1971.

## ПОСЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬНОСТЬ И ОДНОВРЕМЕННОСТЬ В ПСИХОПАТОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ПЕРИЖИВАНИЯХ

Г. Попов, Н. Керанова

### РЕЗЮМЕ

Работа представляет собой теоретико-методологическое обобщение клинических и экспериментально-психологических исследований психологического и психопатологического проблема времени и пространства.

Способность центральной нервной системы интегрировать последовательность и одновременность и «разлагать» одновременность на последовательности определяется с точки зрения взаимосвязи между временем и пространством. В таком смысле проводится анализ некоторых нормальных психологических феноменов как переход мышления в речь.

Дезинтеграция комплекса «последовательность—одновременность» рассматривается как основной по сравнению с разорванным мышлением и другими психопатологическими расстройствами.