
Abstract

Semantic creation process of language observed in drawing therapy in a patient with schizophrenia

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Drawing plays an important role in ego formation and verbal expression in patients with schizophrenia. This paper examines, from a linguistic perspective, the inner experience of an adolescent female patient diagnosed with schizophrenia and how drawing therapy led to verbal expression. The client, who had previously displayed negligible verbal expression, began painting and then experimented with varying her expression by coloring pictures drawn by the therapist, spontaneously drawing, writing symbols, and negating what was drawn. Eventually, she began to communicate through writing. We consider these changes in her expression as a semantic process of creating a language in which clients give meaning to themselves. This is akin to "linguistic Arayashiki" (Izutsu, 1985), an understanding of the origin of creation. This study found that therapist-client interactions that transcend the boundaries of verbal and non-verbal communication and support the creation of words given meaning by the client, can lead to the process of ordering the client's chaotic inner experience.

Keywords: schizophrenia, drawing therapy, linguistic Arayashiki
