

A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE RESPONSES GIVEN BY SCHIZOPHRENICS ON A PROJECTIVE TEST[#]

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The present study was designed to study the schizophrenics responses on Thematic Apperception Test. A sample of 30 men schizophrenics was selected randomly from the psychiatry wards of different hospitals in Peshawar. Ten cards of Thematic Apperception Test (1, 2, 3BM, 6BM, 7BM, 8BM, 13MF, 14, 15, 17BM) were administered to explore their self-image, perception of environment, and interpersonal relationship. Result showed that 85% of schizophrenics had poor self-image, 60% perceived environment as threatening and rejecting, and 100% showed poor interpersonal relationships. The interrater reliability on T.A.T. Scored by Bellack and Murray's method is .80.

The possibility that Thematic Apperception Test will help to gain information that the client is unwilling to tell because that information is anxiety provoking and the client is unconscious of it because its been repressed into unconscious due to pain or guilt associated with it has generated great interest in investigating different areas such as social attitudes, delinquency abnormal personality, and variation in the use of language. Murstein (1962) studied the projection of hostility on T.A.T as a function of stimulus, background, and personality variables.

The stimulus properties of the cards used accounted for more than half of the total variance explained. Winter, Ferreira, and Olson (1985) conducted a study using the Hafner-Kaplan scoring system. Stories were taken from three-member fifty families with normal children (Nor), forty four families with emotionally maladjusted (Mal), sixteen families with schizophrenic (Scz), and sixteen with delinquent children (Delinquent). The normal and schizophrenic groups produced stories low both in weighted hostility and overt hostility, while stories of Maladjusted groups were high in both the variables. On the otherhand, Delinquent families scored high in weighted hostility but scored close to the normal on over hostility. Ford (1983) has found that hysterics

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stared stories more quickly than depressive and told longer stories at a quicker pace.

Davison and Neal (1990) has described differences among certain diagnostic groups in terms of the kind of interactions described in their stories. He concluded that anxious reactive people produced a significantly greater number of themes of man moving toward man, the depressive reactive produced themes of man moving toward woman, the hebephrenic schizophrenics of themes of man moving against man and the catatonic schizophrenics produced themes of no relationship between man and woman. Mischler and Waxler (1968) also demonstrated that mothers of schizophrenics children can be differentiated significantly from mothers of normal children of the basis of T.A.T. responses.

The studies conducted on T.A.T. have mainly focused on one variable related to the different disorders. Hence, there is a need to investigate the whole perceptual processes of the clients suffering from different disorders. The purpose of this investigation was to study the perceptual processes of schizophrenics so that a proper therapeutic guideline may be followed. The following hypotheses were formulated.

1. Schizophrenics will have poor self-image.
2. They will perceive environment in the stories as threatening or rejecting.
3. They will show poor interpersonal relationships.

METHOD

Participants

The sample of 30 men schizophrenics with a mean age 30 years (age range 20-50) were randomly selected from psychiatry ward of Hayat Shaheed Teaching Hospital, Lady Reading Hospital, and Mental Hospital Peshawar. All the patients included in the study were suffering from schizophrenia for the last one year and diagnosed as paranoid type, disorganized type, and residual type. Who were initially diagnosed by psychiatrist and later were confirmed by the criteria's mentioned mentioned in DSM-IV (APA, 1994). These patients were hospitalized for last three months and were under pharmacological treatment.

Instruments

- a) Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)
- b) Interview Schedule

An indepth interview was conducted with the help of interview schedule with patients' informants to collect the information, like present problem, medical history, psychiatric history, family history.

Procedure

The subjects were contacted at psychiatry ward of different Hospitals of Peshawar region. During the initial meeting each subject was motivated to undergo assessment process. After establishing the rapport, the assessment procedure was carried out at a quiet place inside the hospital. During the first phase of assessment ten cards of Thematic Apperception Test (1, 2, 3BM, 6BM, 7BM, 8BM, 13MF, 14, 15, 17BM) were shown to them one by one and were asked to make a story on each card. Responses were noted down and categorized according to Bellack (1948) method of interpretation. Murray's (1935) method of interpretation was also applied to validate the data. During phase II the patients' informants were contacted to collect information about each subjects' present and past behaviour. The interrater reliability on T.A.T. scored by Bellack and Murray's method is .80.

Interview was about the clients present problem, past medical, psychiatric, and family history. The interview was conducted with the relatives of clients and the purpose was to diagnose on the bases of DSM-IV as well as to check the reliability of diagnoses made by psychiatrists.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the findings of present study through Bellack and Murray's method of T.A.T. scoring 85% subjects showed poor self-image, 15% showed lack of awareness about their self-image.

Table 1

Percentage of Responses of Schizophrenics on Thematic Apperception Test Interpreted By Bellack and Murray Method (N=30)

Major Categories	Sub-Categories	% Responses through Bellack Method	% Responses through Murray's Method
Self-Image	Poor	85	86
	Good	0	0
	None	15	13.3
Behavioral Needs	Aggression	66	66.7
	Achievement	6	6.67
	Affiliation	10	10.0
	None	16	16.67
Conceptions of Environment	Supporting	0	0
	Rejecting	26	26.67
	Threatening	60	60
Nature of Anxieties	None	13	13.3
	Illness	26	33.33
	Deprivation	13	13.33
	Physical Harm	33	33.33
	Over Powered	13	13.33
Integration of Ego	None	6	6.66
	Integrated	0	0
Interpersonal Relationship	Not Integrated	100	100
	Good	0	0
Relationship	Poor	100	100

In the second categories of Behavioural Needs, 66% subjects showed *n* aggression, 6% *n* achievement, 10% *n* affiliation, 16% have no realization about their needs. In the third category of conception of Environment, 26% perceived environment as rejecting, 60%

perceived it threatening, 13% have no conception of environment and non of them perceived it supporting.

In the fourth category of Nature of Anxieties, 33% showed anxiety about physical harm, 26% of illness, 13% of over powered ness. In the fifth category of integration of Ego, none of the subjects showed any integration of Ego. In the sixth category of interpersonal relationships, all subjects showed poor interpersonal relationships.

Finding of the present study revealed the schizophrenics perception of their self-image, Behavioural needs, environment, anxieties, interpersonal relationships and Integration of ego. Among 30 schizophrenics, 85% showed poor self-image and 15 showed no conception of self-image which is the result of regression to the state of primary narcissism a phase early in the oral stage before the ego has differentiated from the id. By regressing to narcissistic state, schizophrenics have effectively test contact with the world, they have with drawn the libido from any attachment to any object external to themselves.

Poor self-image is poor view about self and its functioning. It also reflects a distortion of reality which is present in schizophrenics, this will lead to difficulties in relationship with others since there would be great differences between the patient self perception and the way other perceive her or him. With deviant self image there is great risk that the interpersonal interaction will be disturbed and the other is drawn into complementary reactions that will confirm the person's deviant view of himself.

Among 30 schizophrenics 85% showed different type of anxieties i.e., illness, deprivation, physical harm, overpowered which is the result of distorted perception and break down of defense mechanisms. Conception of environment is the significant factor because majority of schizophrenics perceive environment as threating, which resulted in above mentioned anxieties as well as to dealt with it there is high need for aggression and low need for achievement and affiliation. In all cases the ego was disintegrated which shows that ego was burdened with anxiety provoking information which resulted in break down of defense mechanisms and as a result the ego lost contact with reality but also lead to the development of behavioral and interpersonal problems.

Due to insecure ego schizophrenics are usually fearful of this world. Similar findings have been found in the study. 60% schizophrenics perceive that world as threatening and 13% have no idea about environment. All schizophrenics showed disintegration of

ego, which resulted in breakdown of defense mechanism. Due to no use of defense the ego is unable to mediate between id impulses and superego which resulted in the development of anxiety. The result also confirmed because 85% showed different types of anxieties i.e., of illness, deprivation, physical harm, being overpowered. As they perceive environment threatening, this negative perception perhaps leads to negative perception of others, which, in turn, badly affects their relationships with others. The results show that all schizophrenics have poor interpersonal relationships.

This article is based on response of thirty schizophrenics on thematic apperception test. As the number of cases are limited, no general conclusion can be drawn from it but still these case confirmed the number of factors related to schizophrenia. Keeping in view the responses of schizophrenics it can be said that major disturbances of which keep balance between id and super ego with the help of proper use of defense mechanism. Because of disintegration the ego is unable to use defenses which further lead to loss of contact with reality, distorted perception, anxiety, and poor interpersonal relationships. So these factors can be taken into consideration whenever a therapeutic plan for schizophrenics are recommended.

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