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OBJECTIVITY INSIDE PSYCHOANALYSIS SCIENTIFIC STATUS
AN EPISTEMOLOGICAL CONSIDERATION

Abstract

This article goes through the question of what is essential for a correct epistemological research both at a general and a specific level. In order to reach such a goal, theoretical knowledge and “professional” competences are needed.

The latest book by Mauro Mancia, *Sentire le parole*, gives the opportunity to investigate the basic questions of contemporary psychoanalysis, including its scientific status, its origin and historical development, its connection with other disciplines, such as philosophy and epistemology, particularly at a psychoanalytical level.

The nature and features of psychoanalytical knowledge should take into account behavioural sciences epistemology; moreover, the analogical concept of science as well as the difference between natural and behavioural science should be accepted. The reason is that the latter have an “ideographic” nature, focus on the description of the single and therefore on “comprehension”, while the former have a “nomological” nature, i.e. they aim at finding universal laws on the basis of the “explanation” method.

Epistemological psychoanalysis is the first theory that confers to human actions the characteristic of being endowed with “sense” and “intention”; and this has the consequence, rather than the assumption, of assigning a cognitive role to the unconscious. A non-ideological image of science is recaptured, thanks to the concept of scientific investigation, which is closer to its actual way of being. Also the question of human creativity from a psychoanalytical point of view is carefully looked into, which is discovered and interpreted as a “re-creation” of implicit memory and therefore unrepressed unconscious.

The projective identification is the main way of communication in the setting and for this reason is the most important discovery of contemporary psychoanalysis. In the setting, “projective identification” refers to an unconscious mental process of expansion of the patient’s Self.

It is an epistemological revolution in psychoanalysis, consisting in the shifting from a mechanism of removal to mechanisms of scission and projective identification. If this projection-introjection process of identification did not follow the correct course in the mother-environment relationship, there

could be a distorted, intra-psychic and inter-relational procedure, of an “adhesive, intrusive and massive” sort. Such terms are at the basis of all mental disorders, from megalomania and depression to narcissism and delirium, all of which are psychotherapeutic treatments.

The notion of projective identification presents a non-drive model for the mind, like Freud’s, and focuses on a relational method for the mind of Kleinian tradition.