

Linguistic Awareness, verbal short-term memory and learning to spell Greek

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Abstract

The objectives of this study were on the one hand to investigate the interrelationship among linguistic awareness, verbal short-term memory and learning to spell Greek, and on the other hand, to test the hypothesis that spelling at this stage is mainly processed by the phonological channel. For this a longitudinal study was undertaken involving two groups of subjects. A group of children who, at the kindergarten, were classified as having good linguistic awareness and another group characterised by poor linguistic awareness. The subjects were assessed for verbal short-term memory at kindergarten and for word and nonword spelling at the end of the first grade. The main findings were: first that the level of linguistic awareness is related to the effective use of word phonetic representation in short-term memory. Secondly, that the children's greater efficiency in linguistic awareness seems to be associated with better performance in subsequent spelling; and third that first-grade spelling seems to be processed mainly by the phoneme-grapheme translation channel.

Language, words and the unconscious: Questions of psychoanalytic theory practice

E. Tzavaras

Abstract

By reference to some definitions of the psychoanalytic process, two by Freud and one by Lacan, the differences in the «trope» of the theory, that is the various ways of formulating theoretical language each time, are presented. These ways are related to the conceptual tools that are available to each of the theoreticians at a given moment. Secondly, the importance of Lacan's presence is stressed, especially because of the novel «trope» that he has attempted, by introducing in psychoanalytic theory, concepts borrowed from linguistic theory and social anthropology. Thirdly, the need is stressed to abandon the economic freudian «trope», as contemporary data from human and social sciences lead us to recognise the role of language and the symbolic to the structuring and operating of both mental functioning and society.

The emotional burden of parents/ relatives of individuals with severe psychiatric disorders: a first attempt to describe an extramural Unit of Care

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Abstract

This report includes a description of an intervention model regarding the emotional burden that the reporters or psychiatric patients experience, at a Rehabilitation Center for young psychotics, at Thessaloniki. The intervention, a short-term, psychoeducationally oriented group of caregivers, was developed within the context of a clinical research program, designed to evaluate the burden and the coping strategies of the families of psychiatric patients. This paper includes a description of the intervention model, the format and content of group meetings and initial results and clinical impressions regarding the family burden and the coping strategies adopted by the caregivers, in order to accommodate to a relatively new situation.