

Recension

of the dissertation „THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERSTANDING OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS IN LIGHT OF HANS-GEORG GADAMER'S HERMENEUTICS NOTION OF MENTAL HEALTH“ by Edmond M. Charley,
doctoral student to acquire the educational
and scientific degree "doctor" in a professional direction 2.3. Philosophy
from Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Atanasov, PhD

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The Dissertation work „Philosophical Understanding of Psychiatric Disorders in Light of Hans-Georg Gadamer's Hermeneutics of Mental Health“ is 210 pages long. It consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. Each of the chapters contains several main issues, divided into separate sub-issues.

In the Dissertation Research, Edmond M. Charley has set himself task of researching deepened understanding of psychiatric diseases by using philosophical ideas of H.-G. Gadamer in order to provide reliable frameworks for the philosophical understanding and interpretation of psychiatric disorders in research and psychiatry, to establish how a hermeneutic approach can be a crucial tool for analyzes and finding new approaches and more successful solutions to mental disorders and mental health.

Introduction defines an issue about important substantial philosophical problem to a need for a moral approach to mental illness, cooperation between professionals and emphasis on personal factors as well as those of the environment that determine limitations in observation and quality of medical services in psychiatry.

Reflections aim to reveal the contradiction between relativistic contextual approaches, practices and more universal perspectives on mental health and mental disorders. Statistics are rightly cited that show the expansion of the problem for a deeper sense of the philosophical understanding of mental disorders and complexity of questions that they raise in socio-economic environment regarding neurological dimension and a need for medical services and the management of health care.

There is postulated an idea that mental health requires professionals to use approaches that allow them to interpret a problem experienced by a patient with recognizing substantial signs that depict internal causes and characteristics, and behavior that could causing distress or harm.

Analytical reflections reveal some important hypotheses and lead to conclusions, for example, about a need to adapt research methodologies to ensure applicability of knowledge in psychotherapy and psychopathology, because in the latter economic and political factors exert an increasingly wide influence.

In chapter one, The idea of mental health according to Gadamer's hermeneutics, some properties of integration and joint efforts of professionals to improve understanding of mental disorders and mental health are analyzed, and an analytical attempt is made to overcome a limitation of neurological component in research by increasing of viability and flexibility of medical services with application of philosophical understanding and philosophical perspectives. The latter are objects of research in the problematic environment and etiology of mental disorders.

Regarding the dissertation thesis that Gadamer's hermeneutic method expands and deepens a scope of reflections of understanding and interpretation regarding a study of inner emotions and mental states, there is made assumption that through Gadamer's method interventions can be customized by responding to specific experiences and perspectives of patient in a collaborative process of interpretation and reflection, fostering greater therapeutic involvement, rapport, and building trust through philosophical understanding and communication.

The content of chapter is structured logically, and main points of the problem scope, place of the philosophical understanding and role of hermeneutic approach regarding practices are presented in psychiatry and prevailing conditions of neurological and clinical paradigms. Clear general and specific objectives and scope of the research are set. There is presented a need and critical motive for a modern and philosophical understanding of mental disorders.

The theoretical basis of the study covers three components: philosophical dualistic theory of mind and body, studies of P. Ricoeur and hermeneutics of H.-G. Gadamer. A conceptual framework is presented regarding the hermeneutics of H.-G. How Gadamer. Reflections are aimed at answering the question of how it is possible through its components to help research on psychotic disorder and to develop hermeneutic analysis can help research on psychotic disorder and development of hermeneutic analysis. In this sense, nine working concepts are defined in the dissertation research.

Chapter Two, *Analyzing Mental Health Using Philosophical Principles*, analyzes an influence of pharmaceuticals as a sphere of economic factors on psychiatrists and mental health, and the difficulty of applying scientific research more broadly to clinical practice. Relationship between innovative therapies, regulations, social, biological and cultural differences defines a range of constraints that prove to be a vital issue in the mental health management.

For the development of the meaning of philosophical understanding and certain conceptual philosophical frameworks of knowledge for self-improvement of cognitive models and treatment, a network approach in mental state management is proposed, but for which a comprehensive strategy is needed.

An analysis of scientific and philosophical perspectives from a conception of the ontological point of view and ethical aspects of mental illness has been made. A few contradictions between various sciences do not lead to adequate solutions in the psychotic field. Even the meaning of providing "holistic care" can create ethical dilemmas.

Gadamer's hermeneutics with its reproduction and extension of philosophical understanding helps integration and encourages linking of opposing fields of analysis by different specialists. Philosophical understanding and different philosophical perspectives are a basis of new methods of treating mental illness.

Several contemporary theses are reviewed by clinical professionals and researchers in psychiatry regarding the role of mind-body philosophical understanding and mental health. On the basis of the reflections, a conclusion was made about a perception of the accent of H.-G. Gadamer on the openness of physiological suffering and mental disorder, which requires a reevaluation of the framework of symptoms based on studies of causal mechanisms, identification of causal elements and reliable treatment. But this requires a comprehensive approach, strategy and patient-centered practices.

An issue is search for a coordinated approach to planned interventions and solution of which is helped by the application of Gadamer's four concepts in the analysis of mental health. The issue is analyzed in item *2.5.Application of Gadamer's Four Concepts In Mental Health Analysis* respectively, in four sub-sences about a hermeneutic circle, prejudices, merging of horizons and game through which it constructs introspective processes and procedures. Research reflections lead to explanations of integrative role of interpretation, philosophical understanding and knowledge to properly navigate the experience and provision of health care and a sustainable pragmatic

perspective. Conceptual adherence to paradigmatic models in relationships and procedures is needed in analysis and treatment by various specialists regarding psychotic illness.

In item 2.7. *The models of hermeneutic consciousness in the light of Gadamer's approach* are analyzed, but what exactly these models of consciousness are is not presented.

By an analysis of realities of psychiatric disorders from the perspective of mental health professionals in medical hermeneutics is made, which highlights an important paradigmatic difference in the philosophical understanding and approaches of mental illness and treatment.

By Edmund M. Charley within frameworks of operational techniques structured interviews with patients, professionals, and experts facilitate the in-depth analysis, allowing scholars to explore complex health issues and provide cognitive-value resources both of physical and mental health. In a pragmatic sense is a cognitive thought that researchers use their findings to minimize the complexity of highly challenging mental health problems.

In item 2.11. *Philosophical texts by other philosophers about mental health* are correctly analyzed the concepts of three philosophers M. Heidegger, G. Hegel and M. Merleau-Ponty. An analytical attempt has been made to consistently examine their main theoretical components and systemic approaches. It is impressive to think through a solution to the philosophical understanding of mental health by overcoming contradictions between neurobiological explanations of brain and a humanistic approach.

In chapter three „The Effectiveness of the Idea of Mental Health According to Gadamer's Hermeneutics“ philosophical understanding is revealed in an attempt at phenomenological analysis about depression and a need for an open and transformative dialogue based on empathy and a meaning of understanding. Reflection analysis points to complexity and frequency of internal discourse with power of dialogue that increasing as internal monologue struggles and self-awareness. But to discover various benefits of the philosophical understanding of mental disorders, it is necessary to promote intersubjectivity, with which cognitive, emotional and instinctive openness of subjects to the world, a meaning of life and health are discovered in dialogue.

In addition to learning from experience, a complex transcendental process is necessary, according to H.-G. Gadamer, whom Edmund Charley cites, and to whom he tries to find an adequate response regarding paradoxical process of the philosophical understanding of mental illness as a process from possibility, represented object to reality of presence and solution. Understanding reflections requires distancing and breaking away from initial conceptions in order to objectively continue the cognitive process of mental disorder that is necessary to overcome

prejudices in order to expand an independent discourse of mental health therapy in a rehabilitation process.

Conclusion summarizes the main results of the research, aims and objectives regarding the basic meaning and significance of the philosophical understanding of Gadamer's conceptual framework, which connects the humanities with others, emphasizing the human intellectual experience and a need for the application of philosophical models and approaches in mental health research.

A consistent connection of the reflections with the philosophical understanding of H.-G. Gadamer and concepts of M. Heidegger, G. Hegel and M. Merleau-Ponty present a need for application of innovative techniques for a better understanding of mental disorders.

In Limitations and Recommendations, in addition to reflections on the place of primary research methods and philosophical perspective beneficially influencing medical, psychological, and neurological perspectives, the inclusion of the interview for research development and data and knowledge collection, as well as for expanding the structural depth and functional accuracy of research findings on mental disorders in the dialogical approach and forms of knowledge.

Overall, the research points to a need to build a philosophical framework with neurological and scientific understandings, as well as models in health and health care management policies.

An important contemporary scientific-theoretical and practical philosophical interdisciplinary problem is formulated and investigated. Clear, realistic and achievable analytical goals are set. A purposeful, independent, methodologically correct and realistic was carried out in its conclusions theoretical research.

Main result of the research is a formulation and derivation of a justified proposal for solving the dissertation thematic problem. Exposition of it is logically properly structured. Using language and style are clear, which ensures a coherent understanding and orientation of the reflections to the diverse philosophical cognitive cases of the main research thesis, objectives, tasks, chapters and questions.

The main thematic philosophical concepts and categories are well defined, precisely cited, formulated or deduced.

Relevant scientific literature is used appropriately and cited correctly.

Summary Dissertation has a volume of 84 pages. Reflects the content of the dissertation work, with a abstract and list of contributions. 5 contributions are listed. They are formulated

correctly regarding the dissertation research. Two publications on the subject of the dissertation and one forthcoming are listed.

CONCLUSIONS:

Hermeneutics of mental health is an increasingly important and broad issue not only of thinking and knowledge, but also of health management, cognitive models and consumption of medical services in modern society by increasingly complex dynamics of life and health.

The dissertation research contributes to expanding the meaning and significance of the need for a broader practical philosophical understanding of interpretation and hermeneutics in thought-cognitive analytical processes, models and dialogues in the medicine, health communications and practices.

The dissertation work "The Philosophical Understanding of Psychiatric Disorders in the Light of Hans-Georg Gadamer's Hermeneutics of Mental Health" by Edmund M. Charlie meets the requirements for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Dr." in the professional direction 2.3. Philosophy and as a member of the Scientific Jury I will vote FOR awarding this degree to the author.

Sign:



(Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Atanasov)

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