

Dialogs and discourses in Nursing

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Thinking about the nature of Nursing is also thinking about its knowledge/practice as well as its relation with the subject/object of such knowledge. A controversy is taking shape in our community regarding such knowledge/practice: it retains the fundamentals of both biological and social sciences, that influence Nursing at the same time but are grounded on models of knowledge construction that may be contradictory. Far from having the ambition to end the controversy, I think that reflecting about it may clarify our points of view.

Due to its historical approximation to the exact sciences, biological sciences view is based on the contemplation and declaration made by an intelligence (subject) about a mute, non-speaking thing (object). Although social sciences are close to the exact sciences' knowledge construction model, it is impossible for the subject to perceive and study the thing, because being a subject itself, it doesn't remain silent. The thing is a subject who speaks.

In my opinion, part of the present conceptual difficulties in Nursing that influence the construction of our knowledge/practice lies on dealing with other people, the client and his family: object or subject? On the one hand, the strong social and historical mark of the biologicist model maintains a significant influence in leading our eyes to the client as if he were an object and, therefore, mute. This position concentrates our efforts just on knowing this recognizable object – a monological knowledge only. On the other hand, we cannot ignore it is a speaking subject under pain of losing the human dimension of daily Nursing. Then, it is important to interpret and understand the subject, consequently, to have some knowledge about him – a dialogical knowledge only.

This ambiguity goes through several scenarios, countless interactions, processes (and the several results obtained) and products in professional, assistance and organizational Nursing. According to the "bakhtinian" view, which I consider interesting for our reflections on the profession, the subject who wishes to interpret and understand reality and the subject who gives subsidies to the knowledge of reality, and vice versa, are interlocutors who interact, who make dialogs and, thus, sense. It is an interactional and intersubjective dialogism, especially characteristic of relations between Nursing professionals and their clients and among Nursing professionals themselves.

Still, discourse may be a dialog among discourses; that would imply understanding them through the enunciation, social and historical context, ideology, intertext, polyphony and discourse heterogeneity. It is a dialog between recognizable



subjects, especially characteristic of Nursing scientific production. In spite of that, we must understand that the ambiguity derived from the relation subject/object of knowledge may penetrate Nursing scientific production discourse. It depends on how they considered the relation subject/object.

Such considerations may provide some indication for the reading of the texts presented in this issue of *Anna Nery School – Journal of Nursing*. Some of them focus on institutions where Nursing takes place: hospitals and schools. Others emphasize Nursing clients in several situations and scenarios where they can be found: households, health services, communities, cities or countries.

I think these articles should be understood as the expression of dialogs among interlocutors and dialogs among discourses. There is a variety of voices that are expressed through them, voices that have a certain historical and social insertion into the implied consequences.

It is up to the reader to decode and understand the authors' view while writing their texts/discourses: whether a subject/object perspective or a subject/subject perspective. I believe these discourses deserve full attention, for they are part of a diversity that is present in our professional reality. This journal is an opportunity Anna Nery School of Nursing offers its readers, a privileged space for an important share of the discourse in Nursing.