

Interpretation of personality in general psychological approach



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Abstract

The article presents the results of a psychological study of the phenomenon of interpretation. The place and role of the interpretation in mental personality organization were determined. The essence of the psychological interpretation, which lies in its subjectivity, is revealed. The general function of interpretation is shown: the achievement of personal certainty. The necessity of interpretation in the study of general psychological terms (as a mental process, mental health and mental property) is improved. The specific integrative interpretation, which is implemented in regulatory functions, is revealed. Interpretation is considered as the basis of the individual attitude to reality and to himself.

Keywords: INTERPRETATION, INTERPRETIVE STATE, INTERPRETATIVENESS, MENTAL REGULATION

Psychological definition of the interpretation phenomenon has the specific content in contradistinction from that, which was developed in a philosophical hermeneutic tradition. From the psychological point of view, the interpretation is the combinations of cognitive (intellectual) and estimate and semantic processes, which occur depending on motivation of the subject, personality, his or her relations, developed in the course of interpretation earlier, and induce to new interpretation. For psychology, the subject of interpretation is a subject of consciousness, activity, communication, and these vectors define a context of its interpretation and understanding.

The modern psychological science researchers denote the peculiar role, which is played by interpretation during life activity of the personality. But the researches of interpretative range of problems must be added with developments of interpretation phenomenon in all-psychological context in interrelation with

other mental phenomena. This must help to reveal of this phenomenon with necessary completeness.

The analysis of the last researches and publications. In psychological science, the single questions of understanding and interpretation were developed. The processes of interpretation and understanding as a special ability of the personality were studied by A.A. Brudniy, L.S. Vigotskiy, S.L. Rubinshteyn, O.M. Slavskaya; the communicative aspect of interpretation is defined in the papers of T.M. Dridze; the analysis of interpretation, from the standpoint of definition of cognitive and meaning-making mechanisms is shown in the papers of V.P. Zinchenko, V.V. Znakov, O.G. Asmolov, O.R. Luriy, O.P. Krupnik; the meaning-making role of interpretation is studied by S.O. Vasil'ev, T.M. Dridze, P. Riker, O.M. Slavskaya, N.V. Chepeleva, et al.

In line with hermeneutic psychology, the interpretation was studied by V.V. Andrievska,

N.P. Busigina, M.S. Guseltseva, O.V. Zazimko, O.O. Zaretska, Z.S. Karpenko, I.V. Koshova, N.F. Litovchenko, V.O. Tatenko, T.M. Titarenko, N.V. Chepeleva, O.M. Shilovska, L.P. Yakovenko, et al.

The research of interpretation essence and nature as mental phenomenon can be productive if it is defined in the main modes, specific aspects of mentality. On the assumption of basic exactly scientific categories of psychology, considering the interpretation representation at the different mental levels, it is reasonable to define it in three basic layouts: as a mental process, mental health and mental property.

The article **objective** consists in revelation of qualitative characteristics of interpretation in the all-psychological categories “mental process”, “mental state”, “mental property”, and determination of its place in the mental organization of the personality.

The research main material representation. In psychology, the interpretation is the combinations of cognitive (intellectual) and estimate and semantic processes, which occur depending on motivation of the subject, personality, his or her relations, developed in the course of interpretation earlier, and induce to new interpretation. Procedural aspect is emphasized in interpretation definition as dynamic ability of understanding, judgment and reconsideration by the continuous motion. N. F. Shevchenko [13] emphasizes that the person’s need for development of sense arises constantly; because the person defines his own importance of these or those phenomena, messages or actions, their relation to interests, requirements and life context in general through this sense. But interpretation cannot be defined as a process of meaning-making only.

The researches of an interpretative range of problems in psychological science must be deepened according to the theory of mental processes, problem of mental qualities (abilities) and psychology of states. Interpretation as a mental phenomenon has peculiar distinction, which can be defined as synthetical character, inasmuch as at the same time, this phenomenon is a process (interpretation itself), a state (interpretation), and ability (interpretativity). In our opinion, the deep realization of features of a phenomenon is possible upon condition of main plans revelation through the revelation of basic psychological categories taken together. Interpretation as the mental phenomenon, which exists both as process, and as a state, and also as mentality ability is combined, synthesized in one act, but cannot be reduced to any of them.

Studying of interpretation in three mentioned aspects must concretize its qualitative definiteness as

mental reality. Differential approach in interpretation research makes an opportunity of the obtained results implementation. It must be conducive to systematization and development of the existing psychological knowledge concerning an interpretation problem, and also development of the complete psychological concept of interpretation. We can add that from our point of view, in modern psychological theoretical and empirical researches, the development of an interpretative range of problems is associated with the analysis and synthesis of the main modes of interpretation.

Considering interpretation in the procedural psychological plan, it is important to note that in scientific literature, the interpretation definition is presented as the process, where an understanding, judgment and reconsideration is implemented by the subject of reality for the purpose of definiteness and confidence achievement. However, the interpretation as mental process is not presented in the traditional classification schemes of psychology; scientists do not join it in the general system of mental processes. It is probable that in psychology, studying of mental processes was developed in the plane of cognitive activity of the person, and first of all, is connected with cognitive processes.

Substantial and component complexity of interpretive process allows defining of its special status in the mental organization. The special independent group of mental processes, which included processes of goal formation, anticipation, decision-making, forecasting, programming, planning, control, self-control [6] was determined within the concept of integrated processes of mental activity regulation developed by A.V. Karpov. In the noted concept, the integrated processes as notions and as mental reality have the specific character of difference from cognitive, emotional, motivational, willing ones. The integrated processes of activity and behavior regulation serve as an intermediate link between the main mental processes and complete structure of activity and behavior regulation. From our point of view, the procedural status of interpretation must be defined as regulatory and synthetic, as second order process, which is focused on construction, organization and regulation of subject behavior and activity.

As process, the interpretation has the features similar to characteristics of other integrated processes: it is mental according to the implementation mechanism, tends to subjectivity, ideality, purpose, concreteness, and is of operational structure aimed at providing of the general adaptive functions. Some specific features are inherent in interpretations as integrative process; the regulatory orientation is the most

essential among them. The singularity of a functional purpose of integrated processes is that they directly provide the implementation of regulatory functions which distinguishes them, for example, from cognitive or emotional processes. It is to be recalled that interpretation problem researchers point to more general function of interpretation - achievement of definiteness by the subject in reality, which is constantly changed. Definiteness concerning events, situations, attitude towards another people and oneself, social position, profession, etc. is reached by the personality through interpretation, where uncertainty, ambiguity, imbalance disappear; this is conducive to regulation of other mental processes and activity purpose of the personality in general.

Theoretical researches of interpretation in line with the concept of integrated processes of mental activity regulation reveal the procedural characteristics and regulatory properties of interpretation.

In our opinion, showing of features of interpretation as a process may occur within metacognitive approach, because the metacognitive processes, which have the synthetic cognitive and regulatory nature, make the range of problems of this direction. The ideas of the metacognitive concept define metacognitive processes as procedural means. Having learnt these means, the subject also becomes like this in a great measure, finds "selfishness" and subjectivity in relation to the outside world, to own mentality and its content. According to the essence and functional purposes, the metacognitive processes are oriented to regulation, coordination and organization of the mental content. This class of mental processes provide not the knowledge itself, and not direct realization of informative functions, but knowledge regulation and organization, and for this purpose, self-knowledge of individual knowledge process. The duality of these processes according to the psychological nature and status is emphasized: they are cognitive according to the mechanisms, content, regularities, and at the same time, regulatory according to the main functions.

In our opinion, interpretation as mental can be referred to a class of the metacognitive processes according to the different bases. The psychological analysis of interpretation (in particular, in subject approach) proved the complexity of this process both according to the structure and content, and also functions. The cognitive aspect of interpretative process is shown in the subject cerebration, understanding of the content, sense (meanings) of some text (information). The essence of understanding consists in achievement of a certain level or degree of identity (isomorphism) of a source text and its conceptual-

ization by the understanding subject. Such isomorphism is provided with different mainly intellectual language operations. In this regard, the difference between interpretation itself and understanding consists in the fact that it does not ensure the achievement of such identity. From the psychological standpoint, the interpretation is more subjective than understanding. The understanding provides identification of a difference between categorization and conceptualization of reality in a source text and concepts, constructs of the subject, which understands, for establishment of generalia between them [4]. In the interpretation, the own attitude to that, which is conceived, and not only its passive account, acceptance and expression of this relation, is developed.

In the cognitive plan, the interpretation is combined with estimated judgments, which specifics consist in the fact that the regulatory processes are developed on their basis and under their direct impact (decisions are made, objectives definition is carried out, the behavior is planned). The specific feature of estimated judgments consists in their close connection with motivational and emotional processes, where not only (sometimes not so much) reality, but also requirements and the whole personalities are reflected; that emphasizes their certain subjective character. Subjectivity is also found in criterion definition, according to which the judgment must be considered as the exact. The assessment correctness, which reflects its reality correspondence, was such single criterion at first. At present, it is considered that the estimated judgment can be not correct but optimum. In essence, this criterion is the cognitive metapurpose, i.e. for the sake of what, the estimated judgment is formulated. If the estimated judgment is conducive to the achievement of this purpose and is coordinated with optimality criterion, it must be considered as optimum for behavior and activity regulation [7].

Therefore, the interpretation as mental process must be defined as complex, synthetic in accordance with the content, regulatory according to function, metacognitive according to the organization level mental process on the basis of consideration of theorizes of the integrated processes concept of mental regulation of activity and metacognitivism.

When developing of interpretation problem representation in psychology, it is reasonable to investigate its features in the context of a mental state category. From our point of view, the interpretation process must be considered as that, which is developed against the background of corresponding mental state, in our case, state of interpretation (interpretative state). At present, definition of interpretation as

mental state of the person did not find the appropriate development, and the interpretation is not presented at all in the system of psychology states concepts. However, the interpretation can be defined as a specific state of mental activity of the subject, and its studying in mental states plane must be conducive to development of interpretation psychology problem.

Defining the features of a category of state and its place in the mental organization, V. M. Druzhinin interprets a state as the internal characteristic of the person mentality, rather invariable in time component of mental process, which accompanies the process generated it; the mental property is the external constant system characteristic, which is considered without reference to time [1, p. 7]. E. P. Ilin understands the person state as reflection of a certain level of activation of the relevant organism structures and systems, reaction to a certain situation, excitatory agent; the state arises during the organism and personality self-control [5]. Let us pay attention that the interpretative situation arises in the connection with emergence of something new, unexpected in person activity, not comprehended yet, not “entered” in the context of image formed. Interpretation is transfer of the personality from uncertainty to the achievement of certainty concerning the world around and oneself, where there are changes, which are conceived as excitatory agents.

This aspect is emphasized by L.V. Kulikov, defining the general function of states as adaptation, the organism adaptation to living conditions, which have been changed. The scientists recognize the integrative function in the organization of “a psychological system” of the personality in real time necessary for its effective functioning in various life spheres [5]. As neither the surrounding reality, nor the personality remains constant, static, there is an understanding, judgment and reconsideration of the variable in the interpretation. Interpretation is directly associated with time of the personality, with the changes of time and requires creation of new concept, new composition and definition of a new problem. Actually, changes cause the feeling of uncertainty, ambiguity, imbalance in person; in turn, it must be transformed to the semantic “balance”. E.P. Ilin associates dynamics development of states with destabilization (homeostasis) of an organism and the personality as a result of impact of certain excitatory agents, and the subsequent mobilization, neutralization of “extraneous” by stability of the internal environment [5].

Due to emphasizing of a cognitive component in the interpretation, from our point of view, an interpretative state is possible to be defined as intellectual.

In psychology, an intellectual state is understood as the specific states arising at the person in the course of cerebration. The confusion characterized by loss of logical communication between feasible actions and that, which are planned, can be an example of the intellectual state. Therefore, the event perception, its analysis and an assessment is broken; it becomes difficult to make the decision. The confusion is also characterized by purposeless actions or complete inactivity. We consider that the interpretative state can be designated as intellectual as the need of the personality for interpretation, that is for definiteness, formation of concrete thought, position is satisfied using mainly intellectual way.

We have defined phases, which consistently replace each other and have specific substantial characteristics, sharing the opinion of E.P. Ilin, who considers a state as the dynamic process passing through a number of certain phases in the interpretative state. The first phase of interpretation, which can be defined conditionally as preliminary phase, is characterized by experience of confusion, embarrassment, astonishment, bewilderment, warning, that the person subjectively feels in a meeting situation with something unknown or new. After the first, there comes the phase, which we defined as the actual, connected actually with interpretation process. The interpretative construct formation is carried out in an actual phase of interpretation, which is followed by subjective experiences of concentration, reasoning, dreaminess, stress. The interpretative conclusion, which is actually the result of interpretative activity of the personality, causes a state, which is defined as stability, simplification, balance.

It can be added that emergence, development, duration of any person state, in particular interpretative, is associated with personal features, typological properties of nervous system, intelligence characteristics, the attitude to an interpretation subject, features of an actual interpretative situation, etc., which in total determine the expressiveness of the events state. The analysis of the interpretation problem in the context of all-psychological category of property assumes the revelation of the most indicative features of this phenomenon. Let us designate the interpretation as property by the term “interpretativeness” for the purpose of achievement of terminological definiteness in our research having in mind the substantial specificity of the separate mental phenomena. From our point of view, the interpretativeness is a feature, mental property included into a circle of values of the most general concepts “mental properties”, “individual merits”. At the same time, this property differs from other

mental properties because it is inherent only in the person; it is characteristic of human mentality only. Now ability of the person to interpretation as unique property of mentality and personality is not studied enough in psychological researches. Also, the place among other properties and communication with other mental properties, abilities, individual merits of the person are not determined. The need of interpretativeness studying as mental property is important and from the standpoint of its significant impact on individual behavior and activity formation, and also concerning an exclusive role in the interpersonal relations and interactions of people.

We assume that interpretativeness, as well as other mental properties, has individual degree of expressiveness that can be measured by a certain diagnostic tool. That is, if ability of the person to interpretation is defined in a circle of mental abilities, the continuity and variability, which are inherent in all abilities, must be determined. Probably, the interpretation ability, which is intellectual and personal according to their nature, should be considered as the dynamic formation developing throughout life. The understanding, reconsideration, generation of new compositions occur constantly for the purpose of establishment of new balances between the personality and reality. A.N. Slavskaya defines the personal need for interpretation as vital need, and interpretations as ability of its consciousness [10, p. 64].

If defining of interpretativeness as ability of the person, intellectual ability, the assumption concerning its individual expressiveness in different people, and also concerning the environment factor and genetic factor influencing the degree of the personality interpretativeness is obvious. It is to be recalled that in psychology, the intellectual ability is defined as the characteristic of person success in the solution of certain task, and has the considerable component associated with information processing (the task, which requires consideration, substantial thinking or ability), providing that the person tries to solve this problem in the best possible manner. The interpretative abilities must be defined as the most general, to which all the people are capable, since any fragment of the person reality can become the object of interpretation, or interpretation "task". However, in our opinion, the development of interpretative abilities significantly defines the educational environment, social communications and links to relatives. That is, the ability to interpretation must get the corresponding environment, where there are peculiar "reason" for interpretation, certain means of interpretation implementation, the designated contexts. Under such conditions,

the person interpretativeness may appear and develop as the general ability. In turn, the psychological researches show that the personality develops together with abilities development, these two processes are both interdependent and interrelated: the level of abilities development defines the direction of personality development, and vice versa [3]. N. V. Chepalova associates the personality development in general with ability to self-consciousness and understanding of the world through the learning of the main cultural discourses, understanding and interpretation of life experience, and also ability to redefine an transform own life experience depending on the varying external circumstances, project of life, tasks and prospects of the personality [12, p. 256].

Carrying out interpretative activity as long as life endures, the personality is capable to develop own interpretativeness and acquire the ability of interpretation. Therefore, it is probable that researches of interpretation ability must have the age aspect, and also intellectual and personal measurements. Moreover, professionals of some spheres must possess such ability, for example, in legal, pedagogical, psychological practice, art critics, scientists, managers, etc. In this case, the interpretation ability is professionally important quality, and an individual measure of interpretativeness expressiveness must be connected with efficiency of corresponding expert activity.

Conclusions and prospects of further research.

Thus, the theoretical research of interpretation showed that interpretation as mental process should be defined as complex, synthetic according to the structure, regulatory according to function, metacognitive according to organizations of mental level process. The interpretative state is an intellectual state according to the contents and value, and is characterized by a certain mental stress that is completed with the interpretative conclusion. The interpretativeness is understood as mental property, which determines the interpretative abilities of the personality.

As the subsequent development of interpretation psychology, we consider the researches of interrelation of intellectual features (for example, cognitive style, reflection), personal behavior (for example, conformism, autonomy), interpretation ability, and also development of diagnostics problems, formation and development of interpretation ability of the personality.

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