

Abstract

Trough the attendance, accompaniment and monitoring of people with advanced dementia professional carer gain skills in diverse dimensions of interaction, which are methodically observable and thus evident in each and every step of interaction. The aim of this study is to reconstruct the gestural-communicative practices of nursing practitioners. Alongside the exploration of the embodied practices of nursing experts the interaction processes of the individuals with advanced dementia is highlighted. This research elaborates in detail the significance of symbolically simulated practices of nursing practitioners, more precisely speaking **HOW** verbal and non-verbal interaction processes between professional caregiver and individual with advanced dementia are constructed. By 'mirroring' a provided gesture performed by the carer a demented person is led to be able to implement this related action independently. In doing so, self-determination is encouraged and bodily dependence is reduced. The results of this study intend to provide an explanatory and descriptive approach about mirroring practices and thus allow a deeper insight into the practices of professional carer in relation to people with advanced dementia.

The study is based on explicit nursing interaction practices selected from a range of self-care routines for people in an advanced stage of dementia. Two different case studies have been performed and related to each other. By using a reconstructive-praxeological approach this video-based study follows the principles of the documentary method (DM) of interpretation according to Bohnsack. In order to perform a multidimensional microanalysis method the DM has been modified. Both interaction partner have been recorded by two static digital cameras. Both recordings have been synchronized for the analysis and included into the annotation tool ELAN (EUDICO Linguistic Annotator). By modifying the transcription method of the audio-visual data, an access to the intertwining between sequenceality and simultaneity as well as to the areas of interest has been generated.

The results indicate that the nursing practitioners assume the responsibility for the communicative impact in an interaction process. This becomes evident on the performative level through various distinguished attributes. Caregiver adopt the role of an auxiliary-ego by providing themselves in reference to a relevant action. By doing so, they encourage the missing I-function to remember.

In relation to distinctive characteristics of orientation and interaction different constitutive dimensions of relationship and interaction have been identified. Thus, the results of this study show **THAT** and **HOW** interaction partners interact with each other at eye level, establish a common interaction sphere, create a common relationship, develop a common frame, and behave in a change of spokesperson. This research outlines how professional caregiver incorporate sensitive stages of interaction and support the endeavour of a person with dementia for self-determination. It has been reconstructed, **HOW** and in what manner the nursing practitioners communicate gestually. The results of this study expand our understanding about professional nursing practices on the interactional and intercorporeal dimension. The categories of the documentary method have been differentiated at the level of embodied practices.