

THE MATRIX OF GROUP TALK An Empirical Method of Analysis and Validation

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to introduce a systematic methodology for the analysis of what has heretofore been termed covert or latent group talk, along with a set of operational procedures of validation. The methodology is related in part to what has historically been defined in the field of cognitive psychology as analogical reasoning. The article is also a "qualitative" extension of an earlier and more rudimentary formulation (Haskell, 1978b). The format will be as follows: (a) the problem, (b) methodological and nomological validity, (c) data and research questions, (d) methods of analysis using a single piece of verbal data, (e) inter systemic and structural relations of validation, (f) the matrix of group talk, and (g) discussion and implications. The data base is taken from a larger protocol transcribed from the author's group dynamics laboratory. The procedures involved include (1) coherence, (2) correspondence, (3) alignment, and (4) extra group considerations. These in turn, are enveloped within (5) external and (6) internal interrelations.