

Réf. : [Rorschach_List] Re: "Anti-pair" responses Message List

Narcissism and the Fr Response

Rick:

This seems to me to be pretty close to two separate responses. I think it makes more sense to score them that way (since the person really saw both) than to try to reach some other compromise. That is, if the person mentioned, say, both a pair and reflection, , or a bat and a plane, if you score it one way or the other, you've lost something.

In a way, scoring both is also problematic: a) because quantitatively, it will still not capture the oscillation; and b) because the CS Egocentricity Index will sky-rocket. The only interpretation will talk about narcissism.

I am a little skeptical of the research on reflections. My experience is that I sometimes see highly narcissistic patients who give multiple reflections. But, I've also seen clearly narcissitic patients who don't give any. And I've seen patients give several -- and I couldn't see anything in the history, interview or other testing which suggested a problem with narcissism.

Typical, is it not ? The Egocentricity Index is a strange creature of doubtful validity. Reflections and pairs (most of them) belong to different frames of mind. It makes no sense to add them up (even with the weighing).

I like Heinz Kohut's distinction of 3 types of narcissistic need: 1- Need for mirroring (which may sound as «please go on doing that, I enjoy your admiration» or «please, if you don't, I'm not worth anything»). Fr responses would fit these patients.

2- Twinship: «we are so much alike. This sameness is absolute. How wonderful ! A world without differences, without conflicts of any sort. I love you because you are so me !» Pairs with identical twins or similar themes would belong here.

3- Grandiosity: with more or less two versions: «I already have it, let me display it for your greatest pleasure» or «I am desperately in need of a grandiose figure to connect with, so that I can catch it too».

Of course mixed types do exist, more as a rule than as exceptions.

ONE interpretation fits all ???

Beware of cookbooks, says I.

My solution to this is, when I obtain reflections, is to be very careful not to

overlook other evidence of narcissism (hopefully not as a self-fulfilling prophecy), and I won't make the interpretation of narcissism unless I can confirm it. I may suggest, in the report, that treaters be alert.

Indeed.

In this case, it looks to me like an "on the fence" response,

For which there is no code (which would be the «valid» one.)

meaning that the person may respond to an ambiguous situation with a narcissistically influenced response, or not. I might speculate that others may find the individual's behavior unpredictable, with a reasonable response in one situation and an excessively self-focused one in another. But, I wouldn't make the interpretation unless I could confirm it with some other evidence.

Rick

Strangely enough, you may get a very high Egocentricity Index with several good pair responses, as well as with automatic pairs without any interaction; and your EI may be lowered by un-relational responses given by very egocentric individuals: «I'm only interested in this percept, I just couldn't care less about the other person on the other side»...

My 2 cents

Gérald