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Course #2643 Verbal Communication

Term Paper

Warsaw 2014

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MARRIED COUPLE.....	2
TRANSACTION ANALYSIS	3
CONVERSATION ANALYSIS.....	6
THEORY OF COMMUNICATION	8
OWN INTERPRETATION AND COMPARISON OF THE TOOLS	11

MARRIED COUPLE

transactional, conversational and Theory of Communication analysis

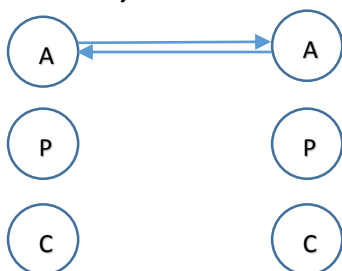
Context: a young married couple argues over the wife wanting to work less time, since the husband does so; he, however, has to prepare for his job at home, and has to get to his job in several points around the city, which takes some time, all in all spending more work-related time than her, plus earning more money.

1. **W**(ife): Honey, can we talk?
2. **H**(usband): Sure, what is it?
3. **W**: I don't want to work.
4. **H**: ...what do you mean by that? We need the money.
5. **W**: Yeah, but you earn enough. Can't I not work?
6. **H**: But you've just signed a new deal! You can't quit!
7. **W**: [no response]
8. **H**: And what would you do with all of this time?
9. **W**: I would take care of the house.
10. **H**: We've split that, and we're managing, so that's beside the point.
11. **W**: But I don't want to work so long!
12. **H**: Ok, that's different. But who's going to hire you for $\frac{3}{4}$ part-time?
13. **W**: Well, I'll find something.

TRANSACTION ANALYSIS

1. **W: Honey, can we talk?**

H: Sure, what is it?

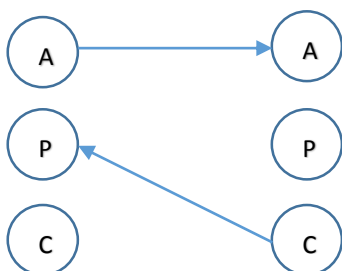


RITUAL

Simple, complementary transaction (type 1)

2. **H: Sure, what is it?**

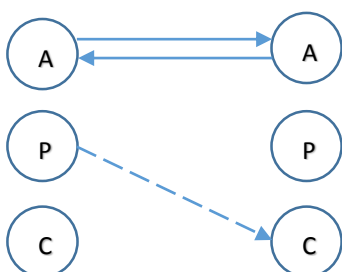
W: I don't want to work.



Ulterior, angular transaction (3 ego states involved)

3. **H: What do you mean by that? We need the money.**

W: Yeah, but you earn enough. Can't I not work?

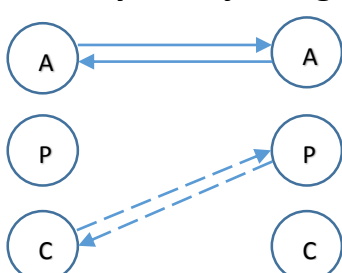


OPERATION – MANEUVER

Ulterior, angular transaction (3 ego states involved)

4. **W: Yeah, but you earn enough. Can't I not work?**

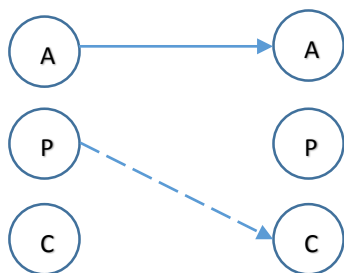
H: But you've just signed a new deal! You can't quit!



Ulterior, duplex transactions (social vs psychological level)

5. H: But you've just signed a new deal! You can't quit!

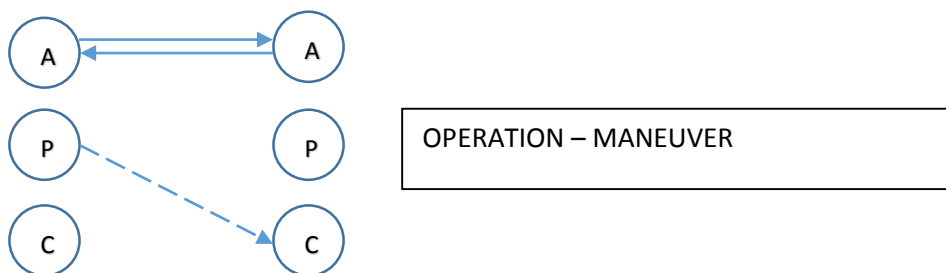
W: [no response]



No response results in the breakdown of communication

6. H: And what would you do with all this time?

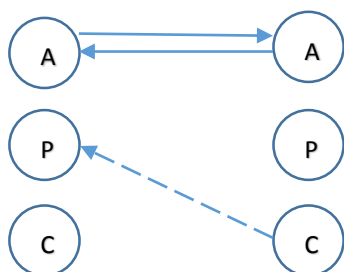
W: I would take care of the house.



Ulterior, angular transaction (3 ego states involved)

7. H: We've split that, and we're managing, so that's beside the point.

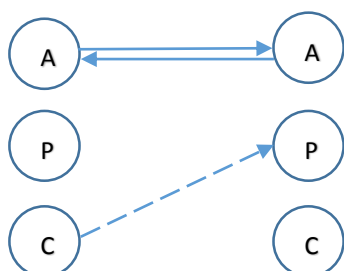
W: But I don't want to work so long!



Ulterior, angular transaction (3 ego states involved)

8. W: But I don't want to work so long!

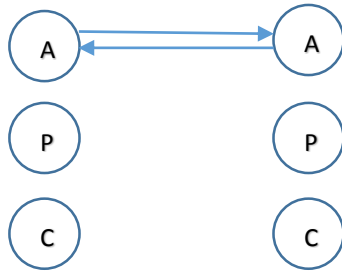
H: Oh, that's different. But who's going to hire you for ¾ part-time?



Ulterior, angular transaction (3 ego states involved)

9. H: Oh, that's different. But who's going to hire you for $\frac{3}{4}$ part time?

W: Well, I'll find something.



Simple, complementary transaction (type 1)

CONVERSATION ANALYSIS

1 W: **Honey, can we talk?** |U1, T1|

PRESEQUENCE (PRE-ANNOUCEMENT)

2 H: **Sure,** |U2, T2|

what is it? |U3, T3|

3 W: **I don't want to work.** |U4, T4|

ADJ.P.1, PREF. SEC.

ADJ.P.2, PREF. SEC.

4 H: **...what do you mean by that?** |U5, T5|

ADJ. P. 3, FIRSTS

GAP

We need the money. |U6, T6|

ADJ.P.4, DISPREF. SEC.

5 W: **Yeah, but you earn enough.** |U7, T7|

Can't I not work? |U8, T8|

ADJ.P.5, DISPREF. SEC.

6 H: **But you've just signed a new deal!** |U9, T9|

You can't quit! |U10, T10|

ADJ. P. 6, DISPREF. SEC.

7 W: **[no response]** |U11, T11|

SIGNIFICANT (ATTRIBUTABLE) SILENCE, VIOLATION OF RULE #1

8 H: And what would you do with all of this time? | U12, T12|

ADJ.P.7, PREF.SEC.

9 W: I would take care of the house. | U13, T13|

10 H: We've split that, and we're managing, so that's

beside the point. | U14, T14|

ADJ.P.8, DISPREF. SEC.

FROM 5-10: INSERTION SEQUENCES

11 W: But I don't want to work so long! | U15, T15|

ADJ.P.3, DISPREF. SEC.

ADJ.P.9, DISPREF. SEC.

12 H: Oh, that's different. | U16, T16|

But who's going to hire you for ¾ part-time? | U17, T17|

ADJ.P.10, PREF. SEC.

PREFACE

13 W: Well, I'll find something. | U18, T18|

PREFACE

THEORY OF COMMUNICATION

1. W: Honey, can we talk?

Particularized: I don't know if you have time; I don't know if you want to talk

Conventional: Honey – marker of politeness/affection; can – marker of politeness

2. H: Sure, what is it?

Particularized: I can talk right now

Conventional: sure – marker of agreement

3. W: I don't want to work.

Particularized: I'm fed up with my job

4. H: ...what do you mean by that? We need the money.

Particularized: H doesn't understand, asks for clarification; they need the money [to live]

5. W: Yeah, but you earn enough. Can't I not work?

Particularized: W doesn't want to work; H earns quite a lot

Generalized: enough → more isn't needed

Conventional: yeah – marker of agreement

6. H: But you've just signed a new deal! You can't quit!

Particularized: W can't quite the job, as she just started it

Conventional: but – marker of disagreement

7. W: [no response]

Particularized: W doesn't know how or what to answer

8. H: And what would you do with all of this time?

Particularized: W wouldn't be able to sit idly at home; H doesn't see anything to do

9. W: I would take care of the house.

Particularized: someone else than W takes care of the house (alone or with someone)

10.H: We've split that, and we're managing, so that's beside the point.

Particularized: there is no need to change the situation

Conventional: changing this state isn't necessary → this isn't an plausible argument

11.W: But I don't want to work so long!

Particularized: W expresses unwillingness to work so hard

Conventional: but – marker of disagreement

Generalized: so long – it can be longer

12.H: Ok, that's different. But who's going to hire you for $\frac{3}{4}$ part-time?

Particularized: this is the true reason for W to want to change her working routine; $\frac{3}{4}$
part time isn't usual; H is skeptical

Generalized: $\frac{3}{4} \rightarrow$ not full

Conventional: but – marker of disagreement

13.W: Well, I'll find something.

Particularized: W thinks that someone may hire her

Conventional: well

Generalized: something \rightarrow not everything is applicable

OWN INTERPRETATION AND COMPARISON OF THE TOOLS

In this situation the wife wants to get her husband's consent for her to quit change her job characteristics. At first it looks like she wants to quit the job completely, arguing that the husband works hard enough, thus earns enough money for the two of them to live a normal life. In addition, she says that she would take over the house chores, by which she wants to justify her job resignation. The truth is, however, different; she doesn't want to work full-time, but $\frac{3}{4}$ part-time. The husband on the other hand doesn't want to allow his wife to not work, implying that quitting a just-started job is a bad thing, and not doing anything is not allowed in this house; he digs deeper, and eventually he elicits the real reason for his wife's behavior.

This situation is a game on the side of the wife; the game's goal is to get consent from the husband. The wife isn't afraid of destroying her image in the eyes of her husband or the company she is working for – it may mean that she is indeed overburdened by her work. This situation could be considered as “If it weren't for you” (when the wife seeks consent from the husband, it implies that he has to give her one) or “Now I've Got You, You Son of a Bitch” (where the husband realizes the wife's real intention).

It is hard to pinpoint which tool (TA, CA, ToC) is the best one to analyze the dialogue, as they analyze different notions; however, the largest amount of information can be taken from ToC, as it not only gives the surface meaning, but also deep, implicated meaning, not always obvious from the linguistic context. As the two first tools are also informative in this manner (ego states in TA, rules of turn taking in CA), the third one gives the most insight into the real intentions of the speakers.