

**"THE FUTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE"
- PARADOXES OF THE LOST FUTURE -**

Opinions elaborated during the deepening of the Psychology
of Work and Organizations

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When examining the Psychology of Work and Organizations, we often talk about the book "PRAGMATIC OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION" (1967) A STUDY OF INTERACTIONAL PATTERNS, PATHOLOGIES AND PARADOXES" (Paul WATZLAWICK, Janet HELMICK BEAVIN,

Don D. JACKSON) The study of this text proved to be particularly interesting by showing, among all the indisputable theories, some minimal elements that are affected by the time that has elapsed since their writing.

A premise. The study of neurons has currently progressed and, congruently on what is exposed in the book, it is currently considered that they receive various information from the multiple Dendrites communicating, by means of the Synapses, a single information through the single Neurite through Biochemical exchanges (also analog, as correctly stated). The last statement of paragraph 2.55 "... To sum up.

Humans communicate with both the numeric and analog modules" is perfectly consistent with the current state of knowledge. The book "Pragmatic of Human Communication" is affected by the further scientific updating of recent years. In paragraph 2.5 [Numerical and analog communication], in point 2.51, it inaccurately equates, nowadays, Analog Computers (now rare) to Numerical Calculators (today defined as Digital).

I have been pleasantly struck by countless links between three books: "PRAGMATIC OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION A STUDY OF INTERACTIONAL PATTERNS, PATHOLOGIES AND PARADOXES" (Paul WATZLAWICK, Janet HELMICK BEAVIN, Don D. JACKSON - (W. W. Norton & Co. - Inc. - New York);

"Non prendete caramelle dagli sconosciuti ... Abuso Maltrattamento, Incuria dei minori: aspetti psicologici, sociali e giuridici" ("Do not take sweets from strangers ... Abuse Maltreatment, Neglect of minors: psychological, social and legal aspects") (Luciana IOSCA, Massimo SANTORO - Edizioni Brunolibri - 2009);

"I giovani e il futuro: dalla minaccia alla speranza" ("Young people and the future: from threat to hope") (Tonino PALMESE - Rubettino Publishing - 2005).

I begin with a sentence that comes from the book "Young people and the future: from threat to hope": And since the psyche is healthy when it is open to the future (unlike the depressed psyche all collected in the past, and the manic psyche entirely focused on the present), when the future closes its doors or, if it opens them, it is only to offer itself as uncertainty, precariousness, insecurity, restlessness, then 'the terrible has already happened' because the initiatives are extinguished, the hopes appear empty, demotivation grows, vital energy implodes in this case as well. ...".

We come from generations that have undergone the systematic deconstruction of values in the post-1968 years with the sympathy for the transgression mentioned by Dario MELOSSI in his book ("State, social control, deviance" - Bruno Mondadori Editore - 2002). From this point of view, the question of the last generation overwhelmingly arises to which empty values have been delivered, filled not with the Antinomies that pervaded the period, which then resulted in the French May, but with dangerous paradoxes that have slowly knotted double ties on the majority of values attributable to superior ethics.

The Austrian biologist Ludwig Von BERTALLANFY, in 1968 published his main volume "General systems theory" writing in the introduction: «Thinking in terms of systems plays a dominant role in a wide range of sectors ranging from industrial companies and armaments up to to the most mysterious themes of pure science...» in the wake of the Palo Alto School and the "Pragmatic of Human Communication" we can add this reflection also to the Social and interpersonal communication. BATESON defines Social Psychology as the study of individuals' reactions to the reactions of other individuals completely immersed in a huge magmatic cauldron where each component modifies itself and the other elements in a game which, although abstract, assumes an order through sequential processes. The System itself is interactive and is engaged in the innumerable processes of defining the nature of their relationships.

In all of this, the past "Carrot/Stick" parenting system (also influenced by the enormous leap forward made by Science and Technology) began to creak and yield and then collapsed completely. The real problem, according to the writer, consists in the inadequate model that replaced the previous one. The answers to interactions on asymmetrical positions (parents/children) were previously oriented towards Yes / No (perhaps even

antinomic but still valid), later on this negative track of the uncertainty of the answer to give, we entered the minefield of Maybe/It Could Be/Maybe (taking breath away from a nascent pragmatic communication) to give life to a new way of giving answers not without Paradoxes and Double Binds.

The real difference that differentiates the Antinomy [from the Greek Anti (against) and Nomos (law)] and the Paradox consists in the presence in the first of two solutions both mutually exclusive and contradictory (but equally demonstrable) and in the second of an unsolvable contradiction which likewise renders all connected reasoning without solution. In short, there are three types of Paradoxes:

- a. Logical-Mathematical Paradoxes (Antinomies) [Class of all classes are not classes of themselves].
- b. Paradoxical Definitions (Semantic Antinomies) [I am lying].
- c. Pragmatic Paradoxes (Paradoxical Injunctions [The soldier barber who is ordered to shave all soldiers who do not shave themselves - REICHENBACH-] Paradoxical Predictions [The school director announces to the pupils that there will be an unexpected exam next week]).

In my previous work experience as a programmer I have sometimes encountered some Logical-Mathematical Paradoxes that had hints of Double Bind; entering the computer in a circularity with no exit, the classic technical LOOP occurred which required an interruption of the execution of the program in question.

In today's society Pragmatic Paradoxes usually occur in dyadic, triadic or polydyadic relationships, and the ability to react to a paradoxical message would require considerable effort. The authors of the text "Pragmatic of Human Communication" specify this in the example in which a secretary is ordered to write an inaccurate sentence "Chicago is a populous city and it is trisyllable" under penalty of dismissal in case of opposition. The secretary should oppose through Metacommunication (to escape the trap of the dilemma) but in addition to being a difficult thing, it would still be quite a feat to be able to "communicate on communication".

There forms that are devastating in emotional and parental relationships are apparently harmless statements that conceal Pragmatic Paradoxes:

"Be spontaneous!", "You should love me", "Don't be so obedient".

Being caught up in these unsolvable dilemmas if not through a superhuman effort of applying Metacommunication and breaking the Redundancies and pre-established schemes, in the search for a new self-

regulating construction of the necessary Homeostasis, are the privilege of a few (who according to the DSM 5 could also have significant pathologies of concern).

In the midst of my analysis of such a fascinating sector I try to bring together Religion and Science (both tending to a single End) reflecting on the simple and sincere type of communication to which JESUS exhorts in the Gospel According to Matthew 5:37 "Let your language be: the your yes is yes, your no is no; the superfluous proceeds from the evil one". In fact, on page 45 of the book "Pragmatic of Human Communication" we find this statement "

In reality it seems that the more spontaneous and healthy a relationship is, the more the relational aspect of communication recedes into the background". Conversely, "sick" relationships are characterized by a constant struggle to define the nature of the relationship, while the content aspect of the relationship becomes less and less important".

Furthermore, an important value is recognized in the "Punctuation of the Sequence of Events" where each element (often in dyadic and circular form) turns out to be Stimulus, Response and Reinforcement of the anomalous sequence. There are feedback loops where everyone charges the other with a responsibility now lost in the mists of time and whose original cause is unknown.

Another interesting point lies in the criticality and danger of the "Double Bind". In our current situation of instability (the Liquid Society of BAUMAN) we can identify an overwhelming majority of "Double Binds" in everyday interactions.

We describe the elements of the Double Bind:

1) Two or more people are involved in an intense relationship (family, friendship, love, material addiction, etc.)

2) In this context a message is given:

- a. He asserts something,
- b. He asserts something about his own assertion,
- c. These two statements are mutually exclusive,

3) The recipient of the message is prevented from withdrawing from the scheme established by the message either by commenting on it (Metacommunication) or by withdrawing into himself. The message itself is Paradoxical and is usually forbidden (more or less obviously) to show a real awareness of the contradiction and/or the real problem at hand. If the person has correct perceptions, they are called "bad" or "insane" for communicating that there is a discrepancy between what they see and

what they should see. In "The Wife of Bath's Tale" (The Tale of the Wife of Bath), the story of a Knight of King Arthur, CLAUCHER proposes the break of the mold with the sentence:

"I do not fors the whether of the two" (I do not choose either [alternatives]), thus breaking the yoke of the absurd Double Bind.

The concept of the Black Box represents one of the answers to the difficulties of our times, whereby rather than struggling to try to modify the inside of the box, it is more effective to monitor the Input and Output of this strange and wonderful human brain.

The family is considered a system, certainly partially open and partially closed. As Von BERTALLANFY says: "The principle of equifinality characterizes the stationary state of open systems: that is, contrary to what occurs in Closed Systems where the initial conditions determine the equilibrium state, in Open Systems only the Parameters of the system determine the state that is independent (even temporarily) of the initial conditions". The family nucleus finds its balance (healthy or unhealthy) in its internal and external interactions.

The Game without End: in our current society some rules of the past have taken on a dangerous value. In the game of lovers there is always that (especially female) ability to communicate one's feelings in reverse: I say "no" (but I think "yes"), "I can't tomorrow" (let's hope he insists), "do as you pare" (don't move from there) and so on. The book "Pragmatic of Human Communication" describes the Endless Game which, by expressing the opposite of what it is intended to say, ends up confusing Communication and Metacommunication to arrive at an impossible exit from the game itself.

I would like to conclude by drawing attention to the possibility of using, in our interactions, a new type of communication capable of restoring to each symbol, to each word, an intrinsic and extrinsic meaning in conformity with reality, a necessary option in this world which is becoming increasingly technological and less and less poetic (unfortunately and fortunately).

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