

YPSP01-11 - “AM I JUST PARANOID?!”: A STUDY ABOUT PSYCHIATRIC CONTAMINATIONS ON COLLOQUIAL LANGUAGE

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**Objectives:** Common language is a mirror of culture and society. Death and mental illness are the human deepest and most ancient taboos, which both patients and professionals have to face in the medical world. Psychiatry has strong and circular connections with culture and society. The aim of this work was to collect and analyze expressions in colloquial language originally derived from psychiatric technical terminology.

**Methods:** A hundred and ten fifth-year medical students (M/F% = 42/58; mean age = 23.5 ± 3.1) attending their semester in psychiatry were asked to list as many expressions as possible of their everyday colloquial use which they thought referred to psychiatry. The terms were collected and analyzed critically.

**Results:** A list of 150 expressions was drawn and then classified in the following categories: technical psychiatric terms; medical-neurological terms; psychoanalytic references; terms referring to abnormality and need for care; irrelevant terms. Though an overall good level of pertinence in the use of technical psychiatric terms was observed, these usually refer to common situations, both individual and happening to others. Often these locutions are used as jokes or offences.

**Conclusion:** Due to fears and prejudices evoked by psychiatric themes, an attempt on exorcising and taking distance leads to the use of psychiatric terms as potentially offensive and despising. This work suggests the need to work - especially in training settings - on filling the gap between common and medical languages and to analyze critically the contaminations as suggestive of very relevant cultural issues.