

The process of latency in current clinical: study through projective methods (Rorschach and T.A.T.).

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Abstract: Our research, based on the contribution of projective methods, by Rorschach Test and the Thematic Apperception Test, should bring us data rather disturbing in so-called normal latencies, particularly in the cohesion of self, organizing drives, the dynamism between fantasies and sense of reality and effectiveness of sinks, allowing us to reflect on the quality of the processes of differentiation and the operation of the transitional spaces, or transformative of the child.

Keywords: Process of latency, Childs, Projective methods.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of our research suggest possible modifications in current clinical, of mental functioning of the child in the latency period (Lazartigue, 2000, 2001; Fréjaville, 2002, 2003; Nayrou, 2006). Modifications supposed by many clinicians that evoke a disappearance of the latency period because of changes in the organization of the post-modern family and social institutions, as well as the massive stresses typical of the technological world of the present. In the theory of sexuality (1905) Sigmund Freud introduces the concept of "sexual latency period" to indicate a stage of development where the sexual drive heads, through sublimation, to other purposes, civil and social services; evolutionary change due to the need to get away from oedipal wishes. (Osf 1905, vol. 4, p. 488).

Among the authors who reflect on these changes, there is Florence Guignard (2007, 2010), which argues that the latency, as well as Freud, is in decline and in danger of losing its connotation of time in installation of systems of para-excitement, necessary for the "cooling" of the expression of drives and channeling of this activity to other activities sublimatory. The current latencies, absorbed largely by the development of the technological and virtual world, fragile to the phase shift of parental roles, would no longer stand the organization's neurotic psychic functioning, itself founded on the function of removal and the capacity for symbolization. These new forms of latency currently rather constitute the breeding ground for the construction of a system of binary logic, governed by the mechanism of cleavage. It follows that an organization based on the divestment of psychic life and the recourse to

action immediately, the consequences of which lie ahead rather bleak: excitability without limits, mimicry of adult sexuality, denial of the difference in generations, in other words, denial of the principle of actually, the time dimension and the finiteness of life (Guignard, 2007, 2010).

These considerations are very close to those of Paul Denis evokes two types of latency: one under the auspices of the removal and that, more and more present, marked by repression (Denis, 2003). The thought of Italian authors agree in recognizing also the "crisis" of the structuring function of oedipus due to radical changes in the family today (discontinuity of parent-child relationships, unstable pair bonds, weakening of the role of the father, etc..). These changes would interfere with the development of the process of latency to different degrees (Sapio, 2010). These authors highlight the pressures that weigh on children today: modulate the urgency of the violence of desires and emotions, adapt to the needs of parents of gratification through a successful school, learn a foreign language, sports performance, as well as incurring the pace of technological tools and competition with peers. All of generating full days, without any break, away from loneliness, boredom, reflection (Scalmati Sabatini, 2010).

Material and Methods

The sample consisted of 10 children of 10 years old, average 10 years and 4 months: 6 females and 4 males, attending the fifth grade class public school. The criteria for sample selection were as follows: non-counselees, school success, good social adjustment, family conditions without any particular problems, at least apparently. The mode of investigation was set up for each, with a short semi-directive interview, followed by the administration of two projective tests, in this case by Rorschach Test and the Thematic Apperception Test, interpreted in a psychoanalytic perspective developed by the Research Group of school "Paris V".

Results

Analysis of the quantitative data

In general, the Rorschach protocols appear smaller in relation to those of the TAT, the latter are richer and more expressive about the issues and the underlying instinctual movements, although this increased expressiveness is often derail the logic of the structures of language, putting in evidence, in some cases, difficulties in the management of drives and elaboration of the oedipal issues. This makes us infer that the Rorschach for its ambiguous nature and regressive in human identity precarious or in the process of structuring, promotes the issuance control or inhibition to combat the threat of a break boundaries and the psychic safeguarding the sense of integration of the self. In the contrary, the TAT, as Monika Boekholt reminds, constitutes an excitation source whose management is much more difficult as the latency is still in the process of installation (Boekholt, 1993). In fact, the TAT, there is much more than in the Rorschach, in the most exciting performances, which sometimes difficult negotiation alters the quality of narrative structures. The T.A.T. however offered us a larger opening to assess the status of processes such as identifiers, and internalization, precarious or accomplished, instances, as well as dynamic movements between trends to persist in positions of dependence and pushed towards autonomy.

The quantitative data, summarized in the graphs allow us to reflect: the Rorschach, the quantitative point us to run a general rigid, relatively conformist, organized on the footprint of the control and/or inhibition, at the same time quite permeable to 'fantasy activity and process identifiers. All content, both in girls, and children, mainly convey themes responding to the latent symbolism of the boards, they postpone seeking power, or the conquest of a self-image satisfying. In some children the support of phallic positions, as also found in a search of J.-Y. Chagnon, seems to contrast sensitivity passive-receptive poorly accepted (Chagnon, 2001).

We seem to find, in these aspects, many elements of "normative" indicated by N. Rausch and M.F. Boizu, for children 8-10 years. At the same time there are others on what the same authors indicate as "neurotic traits" (Rausch et Boizu, 1977). In fact, despite the presence of different factors, such as the tendency to formal control, the presence of an emotional life and signs of a search of adaptation, there seems to detect the homogeneity of the operation psychic where those authors speak, referring to normative children of 8-10 years. Rather we find some discontinuity or rather an oscillation that mark the agreement given to the needs of the reality principle, more directly moved by the pleasure principle, which translate the persistence of attraction for the fantastic universe of omnipotence;

However, without this giving, in general terms, the impression of inconsistency or stridor. You could speak rather of gaits "capricious" indicating positions of fragility and ways of recovery, a "back-and-forth" we might say, that does not give rise to large discrepancies.

At TAT, as we have already mentioned, the set of productions is decidedly richer and even here, as in the Rorschach, they are in resonance with the latent content of the tables. At the level processed according to M. Boekholt (Boekholt, 1993), we are witnessing a predominance of processes of imagery and phantasy (IF 31%) and those that appeal Objectivity and Control (OC 24%).

To a lesser extent, do not miss the use of other mechanisms related to eg. the use of the External Reality (RE 10%), inhibition (EI 12%), the expression of emotions (RA 5%) and the Relationship with Clinical (RC 4%). According to M. Boekholt the association process IF and OC ensures the deployment fantasy with the possibility of relying on rigid defenses: the balance between the two modes ensures the cohesion of identity and the preservation of the interior space. Following this reference one can detect the existence of an anchor anal however suffers, again, attacks by the primary aspects that may put at risk the cohesion and identity.

It could therefore be inferred in the TAT, as in the Rorschach, a certain disharmony of psychic functioning. Though planted on defensive mode and elaborate enough socializing the psychic functioning of these children suffered "shock" exercised by the emergence of primitive drives.

Clinical analysis of the pole instinctual-identificatory

The Girls

The girls, most of the children, show a significant difference between the Rorschach and TAT productions. Despite the restriction on the Rorschach through only the contents, highlights the theme of sex in most girls. Only two of them produce a rather skeletal, whose feelings of inconsistency and the support of representations fusional detect a defect in maternal containment and fragility of the internal object.

But in general, is similar to the way of dealing with instinctual tables that caught our attention. The red of the table II is rather disturbing. It seems that results in feelings of attraction and repulsion, mobilizing, in almost all of the girls reactions, inadequate supervision. Table III delivers in almost every representation of a report referred to sexual identity is provided at the request of the clinician. These reports emphasize the supportive function and value of objects of containment. The tables IV and VI are well recognized in their value, phallic-sexual. This particularly in Table IV that produces more easily responses symbolized. Table VI seems treated in a passive way, but there are reactions focused on the more overtly sexual symbolism.

The tables pastel produce reactions rather excited, highlighting a dynamic defensive showing the attraction and pleasure, albeit conflicting, contact with the outside world. It seems to us that this dynamism is also a projective way of "wits" in front of color in its affective connotation, so that the color stress, in some girls, crack the logic of language risking the collapse of the psychic and bodily boundaries. Beyond the pipeline inhibitors also present, one could argue that the confrontation with the outside world, in his emotional stress, exercise, for most girls, attracting a much stimulation, it triggers sometimes anguish and defensive reactions projective type.

At T.A.T. the stories are often confabulated, some move away from the image of the table. If the latent symbolism of the tables is well recognized, the processing of conflicting aspects is laborious and requires the use of defensive mishaps which combines primary and secondary processes, which realize the imaginative and perceptual disorder created by such conflicts. These drifts are undoubtedly signs of fatigue that these girls employ to maintain those drives and oedipal dynamics associated with them.

The processing particularly laborious, of the tables depressive 3BM and 13B, in some children, it causes slipping of the primary mechanisms to aggressive connotation-persecutor. The tables 5 and 7GF, a mother's request, appear to express conflict in relation to the management of aggression: the table 5 in particular, triggers very mixed feelings about the desire for freedom and autonomy of self-affirming, without exclude the size sexual-identificatory. It seems that this aspect of the decline of the Oedipus provoke guilt and anxiety of abandonment of the maternal bond. Which could justify the "slow dissolution" of the Oedipal conflict in the child, of which Freud spoke, assuming that the effects of this complex may persist throughout life (Freud, 1925).

The Children

The Protocols of the children present themselves rather inhibited both the Rorschach, and the TAT. The latent symbolism is well perceived, even if treated with strategies rather than cutting. On the Rorschach, the fear of castration and the search for phallic enhancement are the most obvious. In addition to the alternation between phallic and other content vanishing, their processing appears played to the theme you have or not have. It seems to us that this alternation represents the state of these children oscillating between feelings of inadequacy, weakness, and investment research phallic. The table II, for example, reveals the attempt to maintain a "safe distance" from the drive stimuli through inhibiting mode. The table III, unlike girls, suggests representations of report only in a child (M.) while another (T.) fails to evoke only in investigation. The characters are not distinct in their sexual identity and the nature of the action is limited to issues related to oral or cleaning. It would remain "neutral" in the shelter of threatening stimuli related to sexual differences, for example. They seem committed to finding a narcissistically self-employed, work clearly aimed at reinforcing gender identity. The way to treat the tables IV and VI is exemplary in this regard: all evoke a powerful character or content.

The tables pastel, as in girls, mobilize even here a certain dynamism, this time carried through animals movements, whose themes often return to carrying out strenuous (eg climb on the rocks, hold on to your fingers, bring a cart, get on top of a pylon). Through the work of moving the motion is projected onto wild animals or harmless, rather than characters, allowing us to infer that males in our sample seem to have more difficulty in taking their fears and deal with the surrounding environment. The children thus show more solicited from the boards pastel putting in place reactions of resistance stronger than in girls. We note, however, that the color, in general, both in children and in girls, in the beings in the process of structuring and sexual identity, exerts a very disturbing that threatens the security and the sense of integration.

The protocols T.A.T. of males appear more anodyne than those of females, however, are not devoid of deep aspects. The latent content is managed with strategies that tend to "trivialize" the dynamics instinctual and references to Oedipal issues. It is precisely the tables 1-2-4-10, related to the management and functional immaturity of sexual relationships, which activate the rational mechanisms mentioned above to protect yourself from too much excitement uncanny. These strategies, more or less successful, however, do not be silent most archaic expressions of sado-masochistic nature or value of persecution that undermine its most adapted: it is observed for example in Tables 5 and 8BM, both evoke themes aggressive towards the imago parents.

As for the elaboration of the loss, it seems that in males occurs by employing strategies that are less expensive than females. This can be seen in the tables 3BM and 13B, classically linked to depressive themes, but also to the table 6BM, evocative of stories related to the decline of the Oedipus complex. The threat of castration in male child, facilitate the removal from the mother, Freud called the "destruction" of the Oedipal conflict (Freud, 1924).

In summary it seems that the psychic functioning of these children, male and female, to keep at bay the underlying instinctual movements and maintain what might be called a state of "quietness" sufficiently stable, requires the expenditure of a lot of energy.

Forced to bear the ambivalent tendencies inherent in the development needs of the child, the mental organization is constantly striving to protect itself in its axis of identity, such as a firefighter throws water on the fire, in the burning issues of sexual order. The latter appear stressed in particular by the boards of the TAT.

Beyond some cases very inhibited, it seems difficult to distinguish whether it is a latency "narrow" or signs of a disease whose effects will be in après-coup, it seems that these children are very sensitive to conflicts in their development and will respond quite vigorously, not without a certain disorder. In this regard, Chagnon, in his study on the ten year old boy, already mentioned, there is the same query "the fact remains that we can wonder with M. Boekholt (1996, p. 568) to know "as to when the normality becomes pathological?" All clinicians are questioning in fact in front of the protocols "dry", so the most defended, differentiation between normal latency but "lock" and abrasion conflict, in other words the quality of mentalization and the work of the preconscious, then removal "(Chagnon, 2001, p. 188).

Fig. 1 Total Rorschach answers.

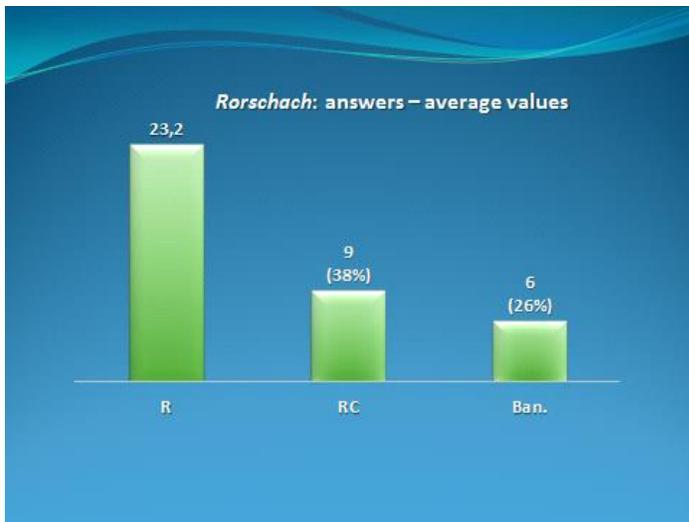


Fig. 2 Psychogram of total sample.

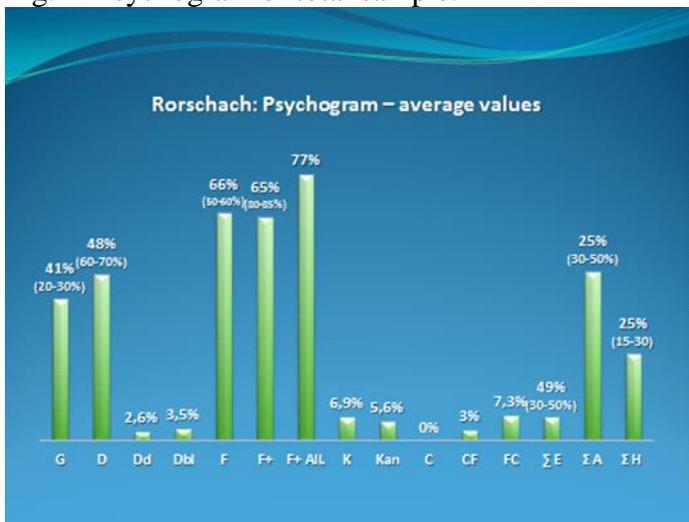


Fig. 3 Rorschach answers of female and male.

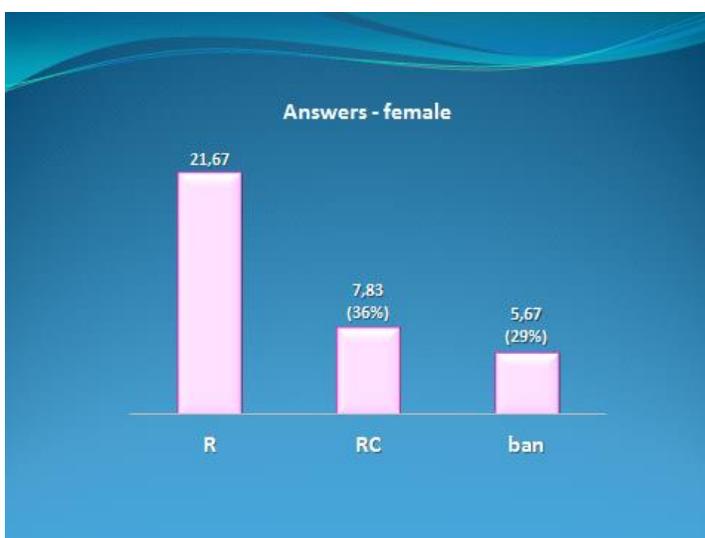




Fig. 4 Average values of female and male.

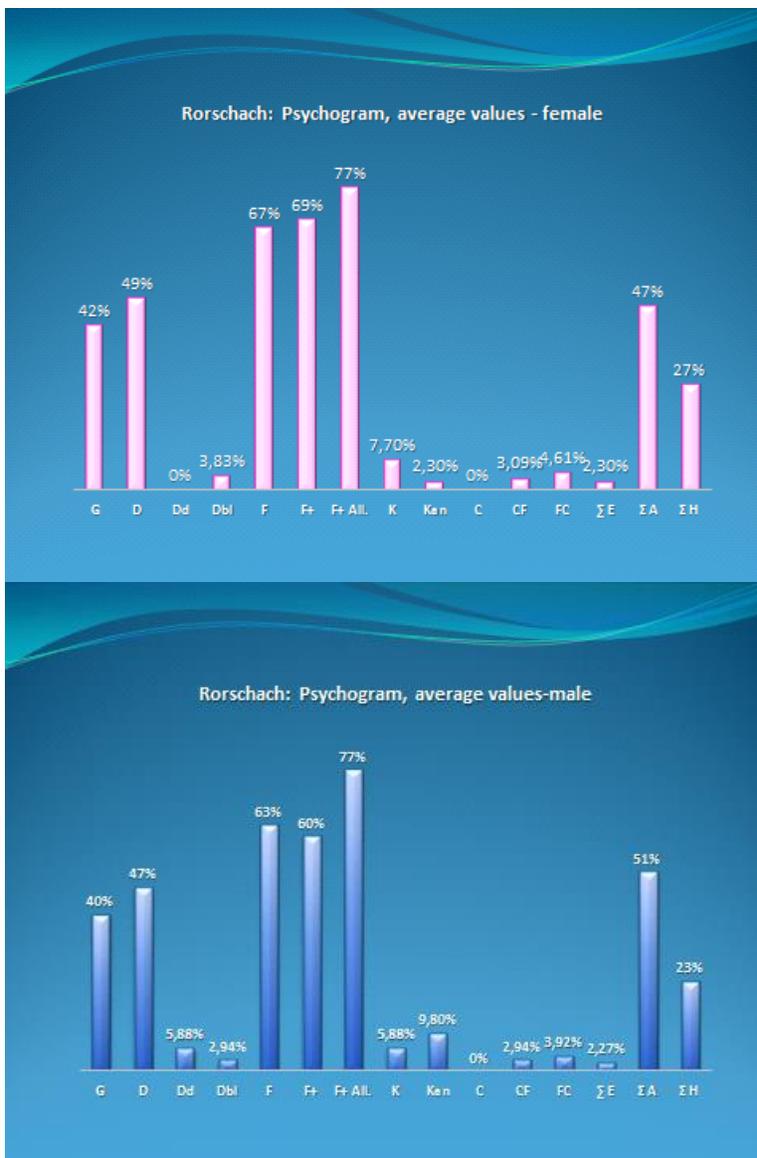


Fig. 5 TRI of the total sample.

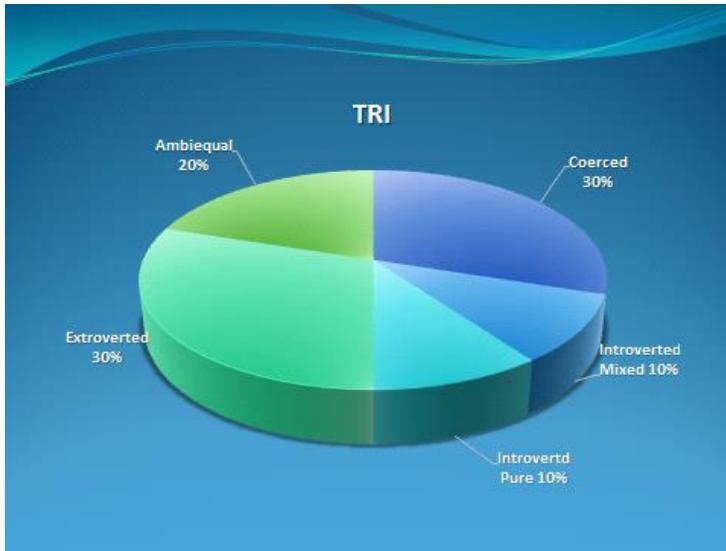


Fig. 6 Analysis of T.A.T.

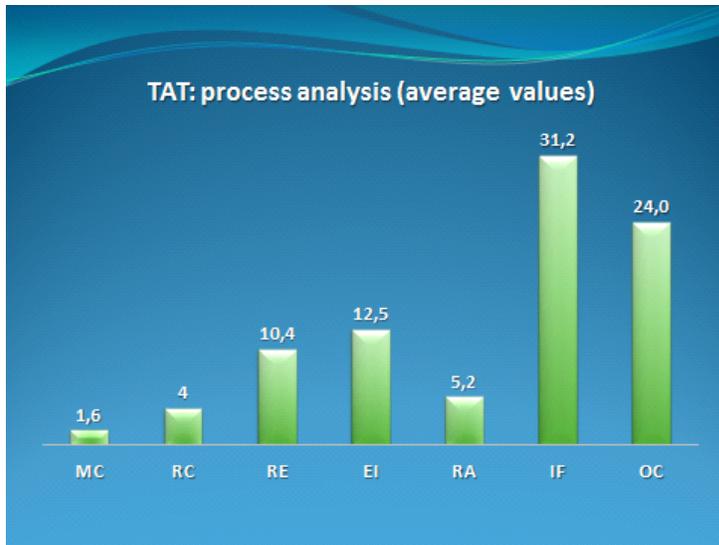
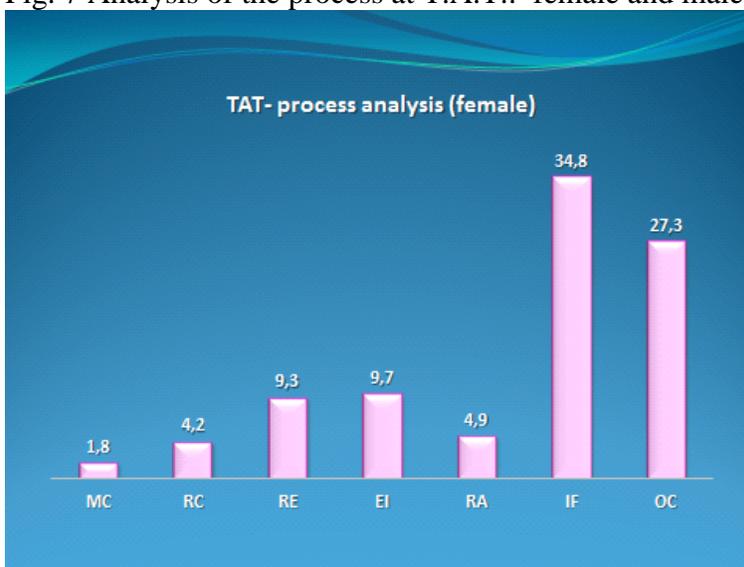


Fig. 7 Analysis of the process at T.A.T.: female and male.



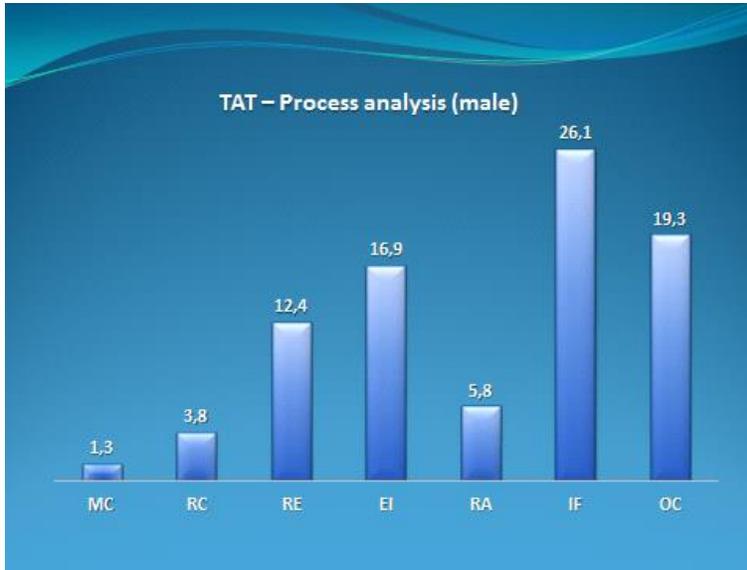
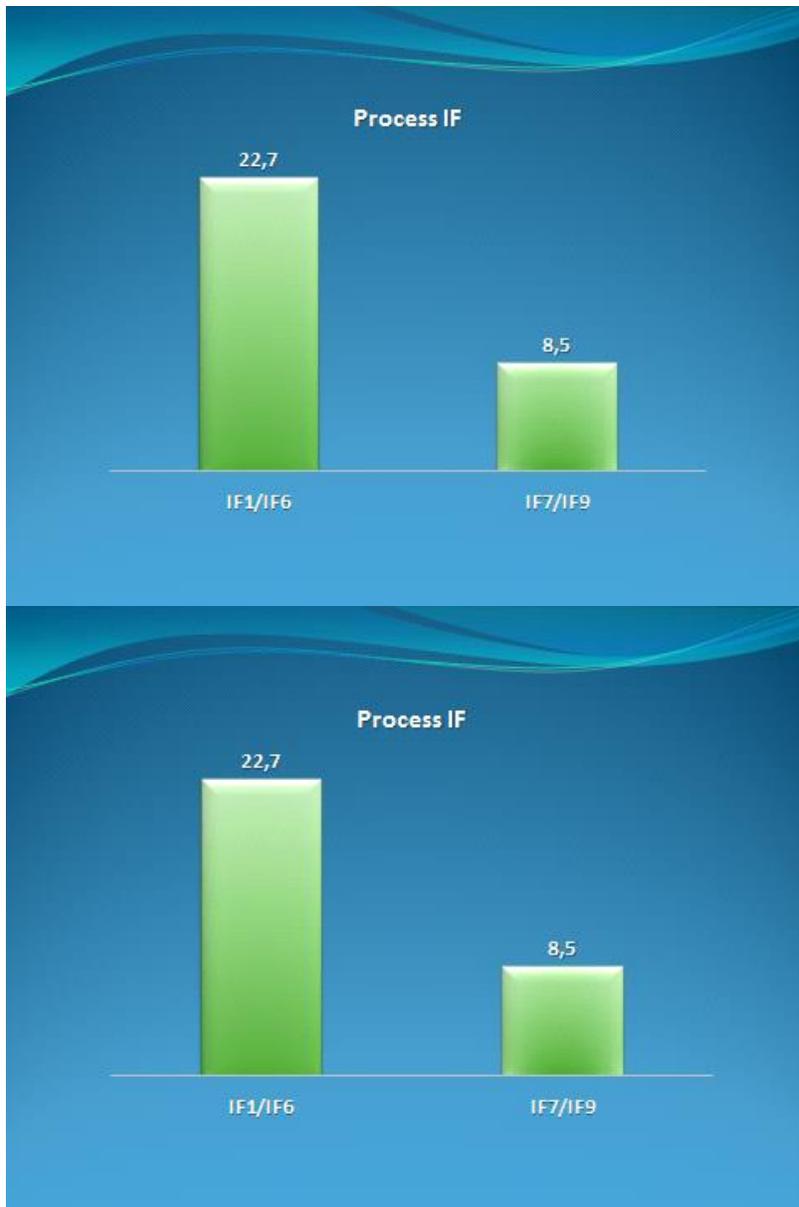


Fig. 8 Value IF and OC



Fig.9 Process IF and OC



Conclusions

In this study we think that we must remain cautious and be aware of the fact that our instruments are used in people who go through a time of change very delicate and falsely "quiet" in terms of internal movements, they may, as appropriate, obscure, creative resources present and highlight, to different degrees, a disorder called from a material that is too confrontational for the child of this age. We have seen that the Rorschach in general has an inhibitory effect and constricting, when the TAT with his material adultomorfo and seductive, often produces disturbances that fragilizzano the boundaries of identity of the child and its adaptive capacity, making difficult the task of keeping neutral or sufficiently remote from this material too confrontational for the child of this age.

We know how the changes typical of this period, for example related to the need to take away from family relations to move towards new investments, activate mode rather different and messy, "at the limit" we might say, to the point result in the child latent, a renegotiation of the relationship between his inner world and the outer world. Our work gives us openings and interpretative keys complex and it is for this reason that our study has led us to adopt the term "figurations of latency", inspired the title of an article by V. Bonaminio and M. Di Renzo, "figurations to emphasize the non-uniformity, not stagnation, on the other hand the complexity of the evolutionary process and internal structural organization of the individual at this stage" (Bonaminio and Di Lorenzo, 2001, p. 157).

The disharmonious aspects that we have had occasion to point out in the psychic functioning of these children, we were not oriented towards ideas of pathology. Instead, we have to think about the different facets that characterize life experience marked by the search for integration and cohesion of the self. In fact, starting right from the concept of latency as a process and not as a psychic state (Carratelli, Lanza, Ardizzone, 2001), those aspects of "capricious" mentioned above, have led us to the idea that this process of dynamic multi-faceted and multi-faceted, such as Bonaminio also detect and Di

Renzo, tends to plow rhythms continuous but non-linear. This is true "in the longitudinal direction, because you have to take into account all the important transformations that characterize the development of the child in this large period (6-12 years), and transverse, to remind the child of this age is involved, at the same time, more psychic tasks that do not follow the same pace and do not maintain the same stability of the organization "(op. cit., p. 158).

The psychic movements observed through projective show us that our children are very sensitive to the resonance of fantasy material. Although the mode of management is subject to stumble destabilizing the Rorschach show conducted predominantly formal adequate enough and the TAT they try at all costs to rationalize the stresses oedipal always without success, but in general the secondary mechanisms and socializing take precedence over the primary ones. The reactions vigorous, messy, sometimes strident made us some suppose the expression of a latency less "hidden", not removed. But here interpreting them as expressions of a search for balance, albeit precarious, we prefer to repent signs of building a space subjective and try to open up to a horizon transformative.

These reflections are not completely at odds with the stresses of the authors who have brought us to this research. We think that changes in corporate, family, the couple's relationship and the links between parents and children, we are witnessing today, undoubtedly have an impact on child development and creating interference management methods that can make the process of latency "noisy" , less unconscious, and more difficult to form the internal world and the psychic life. On the other hand we must not forget that the latency also introduces self-representative capacity and possibilities at the level of cognitive structures and symbolic, imaginative and emotional, through which the child can defend themselves and recast actively and creatively in his inner world and its relations with the surrounding world. Bonaminio and Di Renzo evoke in this regard is a beautiful metaphor suggested by the studies of Novick and Novick (Novick and Novick, 1994): they claim that the psyche can resemble a passport.

Once a boundary is exceeded, the place of the passport is indelibly impressed.

In latency the psychic apparatus is permanently transformed by including elements of intentionality, choice, responsibility and guilt (Bonaminio and Di Renzo, op. cit.).

It is unthinkable to consider the intrapsychic completely sheltered from the bonds of inter-cultural and, for that reason we can not conclude this study without specifying that the reflections that we have learned are from a sample that still, in our opinion, tracks and costumes a rather traditional education. Although seduced by gadgets of post-modernity, the children tested, come from traditional families (mother, father, children), often supported by the support of grandparents that load the custom of the role of baby-sitters and the transmission of values and rules of conduct which temper the narcissistic parental and social pressures to which the authors cited at the beginning they refer. Like most of their peers, they are absorbed from the conditioning and rhythms often too full of life today, as well as from the stress of the virtual world and technology, it seems to us, however, that this traditionalism, featuring the typical life of the small town of south-central Italian, keep these children in a sort of "wall" that makes their development landscape less exposed to major upheavals psychic identified by the authors cited at the beginning. The observations of the clinical reality mainly cosmopolitan, it would be interesting to continue and deepen these studies on a comparison centered on cultural differences.

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