Title: The teaching relationship in Levinasian Ethics and its promise for therapy

Abstract

This paper intends to address Levinasian ethics drawing from his work *Totality and Infinity* (1961/1969), particularly how the relationship between the ‘I’ (person, therapist) and the Other is a form of teaching. This teaching relationship has three dimensions: the philosophical dimension, theoretical applications for therapy, and examples of the relationship in therapy. The first is concerned with the philosophical foundations of the relationship, the second with a theoretical framework for therapy and the last one explores how the teaching relationship could look in therapy. Teaching for Levinas is a way of being curious to what the Other says, and in this discourse, listening and complying with the Other’s call. To be taught by the other entails an attitude of humbleness and an openness to learn from him/her lived experience. To hear his/her call is to be drawn to be responsible, that is being able to respond, this is what essentially constitutes Levinasian ethics. The purpose of choosing Levinasian ethics is to ground these ideas in therapy and discuss how a teaching relationship allows a more humane approach to ethics.

Key words: Levinasian ethics, teaching relationship, therapy.