

The Differences of the Adaptive Regression between Two Artistic Genres.

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Introduction:

Kris, E. (1952) created the concept of 'regression in the service of the ego' from secondary to primary process in explaining the creativity of the artist. Primary and secondary process are concepts developed by Freud, S. (1900), in which the primary process is primitive irrational thinking and the secondary process is logical thinking in accordance with reality. The state in which the primary process becomes dominant is called regression. Kris, E. created the concept of regression to the primary process under the control of the ego, and was the first to refer to the creative aspect of regression.

Schafer, R. (1958) linked 'regression in the service of the ego' to the testing process of the Rorschach test, stating 'regression in the service of the ego' could be measured by using the projective method.

Holt, R. (1977) developed an original scoring method for the Rorschach test from the viewpoint of regression from secondary to primary process.

Traditionally, the Rorschach test has been conducted on artists to elucidate their creativity. From the viewpoint of 'regression in the service of the ego', many studies have been conducted on the psychological processes of artists using Holt's scoring system. (Dudek, S.Z. 1968, Caldwell, E. 1995 etc). Artists have been found to be more likely than the ordinary people to produce regressive responses and to be able to control these regressive responses.

But previous studies on artists' regression in the service of the ego have focused on painters, architects, sculptors, etc., and not on artists involved in the performing arts. Therefore in this study, dancers and scenographers were addressed as artists involved in the performing arts.

Method:

Subjects were 10 contemporary dancers (average age 42.7 years old, SD = 12.3) and 10 scenographers (average age 49.8 years old, SD = 11.3). They were all evaluated as "talented" by curator, art critic, etc.

The author administered the Rorschach method to them. The author scored their primary process responses according to Holt's scoring system (1977).

Result:

T-test was conducted to examine whether there were differences in Holt's categories between the two groups. Results showed that contemporary dancers produced more responses than scenographers in the categories of Sym1 and Cco1 ($t(18)=2.64$ $p<.05$, $t(18)=2.29$ $p<.05$).

The category Sym1 (peculiar symbolization in imagery and colors) refers to peculiar symbolization using images and colors.

Discussion:

As for Sym1, for example, the following responses are scored. "The skeleton (red in the upper left corner) is symbolic of the demonic part of the man's person. The skeleton symbolizes his mind." (Card III), The category Cco1 (condensation of images) refers to unrealistic image-combination. For example, the following responses are scored. "Tears and scarves are melting together," and "The king of the forest and a piece of wood are becoming assimilated" (Card IV).

Although regression in the service of the ego was observed in both groups, it was inferred that contemporary dancers, who create works freely according to their own ideas, are allowed to regress with more unrealistic reactions than scenographers, who have to create works within the constraints of scripts and direction.