

Occupational therapy from an intercultural perspective: reflections from double reflexive ethnography

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Background: As a result globalization processes, there is a growing interest in aspects related to culture and its association with health and well-being. The development of occupational therapy in multicultural contexts proposes to go beyond terminological questions, to deepen and refine new guidelines related to the construction and consolidation of knowledge.

Method: Occupational therapy's professional culture is analysed through doubly reflexive ethnography, a heuristic three-dimensional model consisting of syntactic, pragmatic and semantic dimensions. We have considered data collected in different fieldworks in diverse cultural contexts.

Results: The main results are related with three level analysis: semantic (focused on the actor, it studies identity discourses collected through ethnographic interviews from an emic perspective analysed according to his/her ethnical strategies), pragmatic (centring on the modes of interaction, it studies praxis through participant observation from an etic perspective analysed according to their inner-culture and inter-culture view) and syntactic (focused on institutions, it studies social structures through intercultural forum/workshops from an epistemic framing perspective —within an emic/etic view— analysed according to the organizational/institutional entity)

Conclusion: The application of occupational therapy in a decolonizing way —which doesn't impose its criteria, while subduing other cultural worldviews— and decolonized form —being able to build a narrative and praxis with its own identity, not subservient to development in the medical field— implies the recognition and assimilation of other cultural worldviews, as well as analysing theoretical principles and practices.