

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EXISTENTIAL COMMUNICATION AND
FEMINIST PARADIGM: THE IMPACT OF FATHER - DAUGHTER
COMMUNICATION ON SELF-PERCEPTION

BY

EKİN SÖNMEZ

SUPERVISOR

Assoc. Prof. GÖZDE DALAN POLAT

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SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

This work is focused on the thought that the nature of communication between a father and his daughter influences how that woman will perceive her identity. It is known that a person's perception of his own identity affects his attitude. A person who has a positive perception of identity can realize himself by reaching his reality, while it is thought that a person with a negative and non-constructive perception of identity will experience difficulties in reaching his reality. The objective of this thesis is to review father-daughter communication and attain its effects on how a woman perceives her identity. Father-daughter communication will be discussed based on the Existential Communication concept of the existential philosopher Karl Jaspers, who puts communication at the core of his philosophy.

Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with seven female participants who were identified by applying the snowball sampling recruitment technique. During the interviews, the participants were asked questions about their communication with their father. Records of the interviews were analyzed and resolved with the thick description method. The participant data obtained from the in-depth interviews was reviewed in the context of the Existential Communication concept and the findings include results that support the hypothesis of this master thesis work.

Keywords: Existential Communication, Feminist Existentialism, Self Concept, Self-Perception, Karl Jaspers, Philosophy of Communication, Interpersonal Communication

1. INTRODUCTION

Communication stands out as a key need for humans to maintain their individual and social existence. It evolves with humans and has always been a part of human relations. When experiencing mutual communication, individuals also facilitate creation of an environment of development for each other. The objective of this thesis is to review the effects of communication between a father and his daughter on the self-perception of the daughter in the context of interpersonal communication. The main purpose of examining father-daughter communication is to attain the effects of father-daughter communication on how a woman positions herself as a subject in the society. This thesis advocates that the type of mutual communication that a woman establishes with her father influences her self-appraisal and self-perception. It will attempt to investigate the type of father-daughter communication through the existential communication approach, which is the starting point of existential philosopher Karl Jaspers' philosophy, while it will strive to address women's existence in society through Simon De Beauvoir's, the leading existential feminist, thoughts on existential feminism. A brief introduction will be provided first on existential philosophy to ensure better understanding of the existential communication concept of Karl Jaspers. Principles of existential philosophy will be addressed to gradually progress towards the principle of communication, which is included among the principles of existentialism. The third chapter will provide a description of the concept of communication and present the concept of interpersonal communication. In the third chapter, the German philosopher Karl Jaspers' philosophy will be explained, giving an account of how Jaspers defines communication. Furthermore, the

incorporating communication into their interpretations that put forward subjectivity and ability to become subject and that existence will reach its essence with what it will gain subsequently, existential philosophers in a way describe the properties of communication that will make a subject truly subject. "It is not possible for being to exist or existence to take place without communication. Accordingly, existentialists see communication as an indispensable action of being" (Amik, 2002, p. 102)

The fact that existential philosophy embraced the necessity of a social life, instead of the idea of Solipsism which takes up "...a philosophical discipline which argues that the only thing that exists is the self-identity and mind of the person" (Yardımcı, 2015, p. 191) through an approach that puts forward subjectivity, shows that they accept communication as a natural prerequisite of becoming an individual. Based on this fact, it is understood that the phenomenon of communication stands out as a principle of existential philosophy that play a key role in essence to be discovered in existence. "We cannot live in solitude and expect to find ourselves: We can find and understand it by being an object among objects or a human among humans in the road, city and crowds" (Foulquie, 1998, p. 72).

Existential philosophers do not consider humans as a type of being that is closed to the outer world. They defend that a human, as a result of his reality and essence, is connected to the outer world and other humans. Heidegger, who describes the thought represented by Dasein (existence) as "defining the forms of human existence, also points out to the role of human's awareness within his habitat in ensuring him to reach his existence, i.e. realization of one's unique essence. He states that this awareness of existence in humans can develop as part of a relation and exchange with the environment (Cevizci, 1999, p. 199). Heidegger suggests that a human must be in a state of connection and communication with all objects and

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