DILEMMA

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What to Do When You Have Suspect Translational Plagiarism? - Editor's View

Izet Masic

Editor and Co-Editor of this journal was informed from anonymous reader that article which was published in Medical Archives in 2001 „Psychotherapeutic Testimony by Refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina: a Pilot Study” (in Bosnian language) has been already published in „American Journal of Psychiatry” under the title „Testimony Psychotherapy in Bosnian Refugees: a Pilot Study”, in 1998. (1, 2).

Editor of Medical Archives verified and checked content of both articles (article from Bosnian language was translated to English). It has been noticed that title of article is also subtitle of other article. Both articles were checked with plagiarism software solutions for plagiarism detection (Figure 1 (a, b, c, d)), and plagiarism cannot be detected.

Editorial Board asked Committee of Publishing Ethics (COPE) for advice what to do in this case, and Editor received opinion of the COPE experts. Editorial Board followed algorithm for this situation according to COPE guidelines. We have concluded:

Abstracts of both articles in English language are almost identical. However, after we translated second article (published in the journal Medical Archives, as a supplement which contain Congress proceedings), and when both texts were evaluated by software for plagiarism checker, it was determined that the content of the article, after translation into English, shows that they are not the same, and that by percentage it is not possible to conclude that it is a case of plagiarism.

Author of the article in the article from 2001 in reference cited the article from 1998. (under number eight) on which the article is based.

In the propositions of the aforementioned Congress, it was not stated that the work must be original, but that it can also be applied with article which deals with the topic, which would be an interesting to auditorium.

Mistake of the author is that they did not change the abstract and they did not add a statement at the end of the article about conflict of interest (Conflict of in-

terest: the part of the research was previously published in the American Journal of Psychiatry).

Since both articles have been published twenty years ago, when clear rules did not exist (ICMJE, COPE), and there were no software solutions for verifying the use of others or own previously published text without quoting it according to the rules, we believe that this is not the case of plagiarism. We can talk about “salam publishing” in case that the author published the article in the regular issue of the journal, but since this is a case of publishing in Supplement for the Congress, the claim that this article is a case of plagiarism is rejected (3, 4). In view of all of the above, the article published in the Medical Archives in 2001 (note that at that time none of the journals had a software solution that could detect any form of plagiarism) cannot be labeled as plagiarism, and the retraction of the mentioned article (although only available as a summary), will not be executed. This article can be a good example for other editors if they have a similar problem. It is noted that the Editorial Board has followed all of the COPE guidelines, and that COPE has been notified of the problem itself.

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Testimony Psychotherapy in Bosnian Refugees: A Pilot Study

Article in *American Journal of Psychiatry* · January 2000
DOI: 10.1176/ajp.155.1.1720

4 authors, including
Stevan M. Weiner
University of Illinois at Chicago

File 2

Med Arh, 2001; 55(1), supl. 1:47-51

PSIHOTERAPIJA SVJEDOČENJEM SA IZBJEGLICAMA IZ BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE: PILOT STUDIJA

TESTIMONY PSYCHOTHERAPY IN BOSNIAN REFUGEES: A PILOT STUDY

Alma Džubur-Kulenović, Stevan M. Weiner, Ivan Pavković Psihijatrijska klinika, Klinički centar Univerziteta Sarajeva University of Illinois at Chicago, USA Department of Psychiatry Project on Genocide, Psychiatry and Witnessing

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PSIHOTERAPIJA SVJEDOČENJEM SA IZBJEGLICAMA IZ BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE: PILOT STUDIJA
TESTIMONY PSYCHOTHERAPY IN BOSNIAN REFUGEES: A PILOT STUDY
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Journal of Psychiatry January 1999 DOI 10.1176/ajp.155.1.1720 Source PubMed CITATIONS 127 READS 76 FZYM TWX, including 8 BTRJTKYMFJZYM TWX TKYMN XUZGQNHFYNTSFWJFQXTTWPNSLTSYMXJXJWJQFYJIUWTOJHYX Examination of Some Important Posttraumatic Adaptation Predictors of War Veterans Who Were Seeking Treatment at Psychiatric Clinic, University Clinical Center in Sarajevo View project Public health and countering violent extremism View project Stevan M Weiner University of Illinois at Chicago PUBLICATIONS CITATIONS SEE PROFILE All content following this page was uploaded by Alma Džubur-Kulenović on 25 June 2016. The user has requested enhancement of the downloaded file. 1720 Am J Psychiatry 155:12, December 1998 Testimony Psychotherapy in Bosnian Refugees: A Pilot Study Stevan M. Weiner, M.D., Alma Džubur-Kulenović, M.D., Ivan Pavković, M.D., and Robert Gibbons, Ph.D. Objective The authors sought to describe the use of the testimony method of psychotherapy in a group of traumatized adult refugees from genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Method The subjects were 20 Bosnian refugees in Chicago who gave written informed consent to participate in a case series study of testimony psychotherapy. All subjects received testimony psychotherapy, averaging six sessions, approximately 90 minutes, weekly or biweekly. Subjects received standardized instruments for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, traumatic events, global functioning, and prior psychiatric history. The instruments were administered before treatment, at the conclusion of the treatment, and at the 2- and 6-month follow-ups. Results The posttreatment assessments demonstrated significant decreases in the rate of PTSD diagnosis, PTSD symptom severity, and the severity of reexperiencing, avoidance, and hyperarousal symptom clusters. Depressive symptoms demonstrated a significant decrease, and there was a significant increase in scores on the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale. Two-month and 6-month follow-up assessments demonstrated further significant decreases in all symptoms and an increase in scores on the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale. Conclusions This pilot study provides preliminary evidence that testimony psychotherapy may lead to improvements in PTSD and depressive symptoms, as well as to improvement of functioning, in survivors of state-sponsored violence. Testimony psychotherapy is a brief individual psychotherapeutic method for working with survivors of state-sponsored violence. They look for appropriate ways to make the story known to others. This method

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PSIHOTERAPIJA SVJEDOČENJEM SA IZBJEGLICAMA IZ BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE: PILOT STUDIJA

TESTIMONY PSYCHOTHERAPY IN BOSNIAN REFUGEES: A PILOT STUDY

Alma Džubur-Kulenović, Stevan M. Weiner, Ivan Pavković Psihijatrijska klinika, Klinički centar Univerziteta Sarajeva University of Illinois at Chicago, USA Department of Psychiatry Project on Genocide, Psychiatry and Witnessing

Methodology: The subjects of the study were 20 Bosnian refugees in Chicago who gave written informed consent to participate in a case series study of testimony psychotherapy. All subjects received testimony psychotherapy, averaging six sessions, approximately 90 minutes, weekly or biweekly. Subjects received standardized instruments for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, traumatic events, global functioning, and prior psychiatric history. The instruments were administered before treatment, at the conclusion of the treatment, and at the 2- and 6-month follow-ups.

Am J Psychiatry. 1998 Dec;155(12):1720-6.

Testimony psychotherapy in Bosnian refugees: a pilot study.

Weine SM¹, Kulenovic AD, Pavkovic I, Gibbons R.

Author information

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: The authors sought to describe the use of the testimony method of psychotherapy in a group of traumatized adult refugees from genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

METHOD: The subjects were 20 Bosnian refugees in Chicago who gave written informed consent to participate in a case series study of testimony psychotherapy. All subjects received testimony psychotherapy, averaging six sessions, approximately 90 minutes, weekly or biweekly. Subjects received standardized instruments for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, traumatic events, global functioning, and prior psychiatric history. The instruments were administered before treatment, at the conclusion of the treatment, and at the 2- and 6-month follow-ups.

RESULTS: The posttreatment assessments demonstrated significant decreases in the rate of PTSD diagnosis, PTSD symptom severity, and the severity of reexperiencing, avoidance, and hyperarousal symptom clusters. Depressive symptoms demonstrated a significant decrease, and there was a significant increase in scores on the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale. Two-month and 6-month follow-up assessments demonstrated further significant decreases in all symptoms and an increase in scores on the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale.

CONCLUSIONS: This pilot study provides preliminary evidence that testimony psychotherapy may lead to improvements in PTSD and depressive symptoms, as well as to improvement of functioning, in survivors of state-sponsored violence.

Figure 1 (a, b, c, d). Screenshots of the facts about Alma Dzubur's papers