

## INTRODUCTION

Personal interaction is an extremely complex phenomenon. The many-sided, multiaspectual character of the courses of interaction justifies a transformation of the paradigms of their research. They change with the developing sociological theory; they change also because it is impossible to overlook the transformation of theoretical frame taking place in social psychology and linguistic science, which have always exerted considerable influence on sociological models of interaction. "Approaches to the Study of Face-to-Face Interaction" is meant to be both a record of a certain model of interaction and an attempt to outline the research methods implied by this model. The Reader will find in this volume works of considerable theoretical diversity. They have a common denominator in the interest of all their authors in a basic category of sociological analysis - the interaction which puts the actors in the situation of personal contact. We mention the diversity only to stress that the present collection contains papers presenting new categories of analysis of "face-to-face" interaction and those which point to such methods of theory application which are infrequently referred to by sociologists in their research. The Reader will also find texts which aim at developing the sociological methods of research of communication processes which are the core of personal interaction. We have also included papers which shed light on the traditional areas of sociological investigation from the interactional point of view.

It remains to present the organizing principle of the volume. We have decided to contain in Chapter I papers aimed at developing theoretical inspirations of symbolic interactionism. Thus, a paper by Anselm Strauss "Illness Trajectories" proposes a new analytical category in the study of interaction: the concept of "trajectory".

The idea, which is derived from the tradition of symbolic interactionism, makes possible a synthesis of a variety of data collected in the course of searching analyses of interaction. It also serves as a safeguard to prevent the researcher from adopting a single dominating point of view in such studies.

Krzysztof Konecki ("Re-definitions of Self in Concentration Camps") and Zbigniew Boksański ("The Concept of »Other« in the Desiderata of Clients of a Matrimonial Agency") show how the concept of personal identity can be utilized in empirical research in sociology. The two authors derive the notion of personal identity from different methodological traditions. Krzysztof Konecki refers in his approach to the tradition of identity studies developed in the Chicago School of Symbolic Interactionism. Zbigniew Boksański represents an approach characteristic of the Iowa School.

Chapter II contains papers which introduce the interactional approach into the analyses of the process of data collection in sociology.

Harry Hermans ("Narrative Interviews - A New Tool for Sociological Field Research") presents the consequences of introduction of the symbolic interactionist approach into the methodology of sociological interview. The "narrative interview" is such a form of conversation with the interviewee in which facts of special interest for the researcher are related from the point of view of the respondent who experiences them.

Mieczysław Marciniak ("A Project for the Study of Common-Sense Ideologies of Culture") takes up the same issue and refers it to a concrete research problem. He works out a scheme for a sociological interview which should make it possible to obtain information without distortion resulting from the researcher's mode of thinking which dominates that of the respondent.

Iłona Przybyłowska and Krzysztof Kistelski ("The Social Context of Questionnaire Interview") who give account of some Polish sociological studies focus on the problem of influence of attitudes which respondents exhibit towards sociological research on the course of the interview and on the obtained results. Besides, the authors formulate a prognosis for the evolution of these attitudes in the Polish society. Methodological issues considered with regard to the dynamics of the interactional relation between the

interviewer and the respondent come up in a paper by Andrzej Rostocki ("Sensitive Questions in Sociological Survey"). The author supplies a typology of interview situations which traumatize the respondent. Rolf Kjolseth ("Evidence and Imagination: Photography in Enquiry") advocates the introduction of visual material into our methods of interaction research. The focus on verbal interaction and the almost total reliance on words results in a limitation of sociological knowledge. The article contains remarks on the role of photography as the material in sociological research. Visual material as the object of sociological study is also discussed in a text by Sławomir Olzacki ("Press Photography as a Social Phenomenon and an Object of Sociological Research" who concentrates on the social circulation of press photography and on the mechanisms of its reception.

Chapter III contains papers dealing with selected processes of "communication occurring in the course of »face-to-face« interaction" which are of crucial importance for the sociological theory.

Hans Georg Soeffner ("Reflections on Structural Analysis of Courtroom Interaction") analyzes differences between common communication and communication taking place in the courtroom. The theoretical basis for the paper comes from theories by Alfred Schutz and Max Weber and it is supported empirically by the research of prof. Soeffner's team on a juvenile court.

Elżbieta Gołdziak and Mariusz Kairski ("Nonverbal Communication in the Anthropological Field Study. Theoretical Perspective") consider the possibilities for treating nonverbal communication as the object of research in cultural anthropology. Their study is based theoretically on a definition of culture derived from the so-called Poznań School of Methodology (theories by Jerzy Kmita); their empirical evidence deals above all with nonverbal communication among Penara Indians (Venezuela).

Andrzej Piotrowski ("The Ritualized Communication in Social Research Acts") studies the ritualization of contacts between the interviewer and his respondent in sociological research, especially in the situation of sociological interview. The notion of ritualized communication is derived from certain interactionist concepts of E. Goffman. The author provides evidence from studies

conducted in Poland with special regard to the influence of mass media on their ritualization.

Marek Czyżewski ("Psychoterapy as Interaction Process. An Empirical Attempt") presents his observations of a six-month development of a therapeutic group, with special stress on the interaction between the therapist and the patient. The author's attempt at the empirical analysis follows a theoretical perspective worked out in ethnomethodology and thereby it refers to the rules of common-sense thinking used by the participants of interaction.

Chapter IV contains articles devoted to a specialized technique of research of communication processes in interaction: the conversational analysis.

Grace W. Shugar ("Empirical Approaches to an Adult Understanding of Children's Use of Language") presents a new research approach described by the author as "event analysis". In a dispute with conversation analysis the author points out that the meaning of interactional events is based on the overall context of the interactional activity and should not be limited to the rules of conversation. The empirical basis consists of studies carried out by doc. Shugar on communication among children, while the theoretical justification is drawn from certain texts by E. Goffman as well as from other authors.

Andrzej Piotrowski ("Some Remarks on Conversation Analysis") presents a critical commentary of conversation analysis which refers both to its theoretical assertions and to the question of validity of the research style in the discipline. In both cases the author expresses doubts which refer to the insufficient - in his words - solution of the problem of meaning interpretation.

Chapter V collects papers which present the results of research on the reception of symbolic culture. The reader will find in this section that both the theoretical inspirations and the research methods remain under influence from interactionism.

Bogusław Sułkowski ("Social Reception of TV-shows. An Interactional Approach vs. Social Psychology") cites data from his own research of TV reception and investigates the possibility of viewing contacts with mass media as a substitute source of interactional experience.

Kazimierz Kowalewicz ("Remarks on the Reception of Theatrical Space") focuses on the perception of a constitutive element of in-

teraction; the space included into it. His observations are based on a research of the reception of stage performances.

Alicja Rokuszewska-Pawełek ("On Two Ways of Naturalization of the Criminal Novel") characterizes in her paper the phenomenon of inclusion of characters and events from literary fiction into those formulae of interaction which constitute the "social world" of the respondent.

Janina Tobera ("Home Initiation of Child to Reading Practices or rather to the Worlds of Fictions (not only literary ones)") reconstructs phenomena which occur in the interactional milieu during the process of children's initiation to the world of literary symbols.

The volume is closed by Chapter VI in which we have collected papers dealing with phenomenological sociology.

Richard Grathoff ("Milieu und Gesellschaft") discusses the principles of the so-called milieu studies - his own research method aiming at an analysis of permanent recursive interactional settings (such as the family or the Franciscan Order). The empirical data allow for an insight into his versatile approach which combines a variety of research and recording methods though its theoretical inspiration is drawn from the phenomenological theories by A. Gurwitsch and A. Schutz.

Paweł Spodenkiewicz ("Apocalyptic Visions and the Problem of Reality") presents a short text which betrays his broad interests in non-orthodox parareligious texts (s.o. prophecies) and in the possibility of their analysis in the phenomenological categories of A. Schutz as well as in the application of the sociological concepts of T. Luckmann which refer to changes in the religious attitudes in the modern society.

Marek Czyżewski ("The Social Production of Experience") puts forward a hypothesis concerning the influence which rules of common-sense experience bear on the generation of experiences transgressing (in ordinary judgement) their own boundaries. The author investigates concrete examples and the possibilities for further research. The presented approach relies theoretically on A. Schutz and ethnomethodology.