Is the sociopath socially intelligent?
A new framework for understanding sociopathy

¿Es el sociópata socialmente inteligente?
Un nuevo marco para comprender la sociopatía

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ABSTRACT

The characteristics of sociopathy vary in the context of its overlap with the concept of "psychopathy, and anti-social personality". The characteristic of social intelligence is associated with who is infected with sociopathy. Therefore, this article was designed to follow the scientific heritage of sociopathy, to specify its characteristics, and to analyze them in order to clarify the possibility of describing the sociopath as being intelligent socially. In light of the analysis of the concept of social intelligence, it is not possible to describe the sociopath as being intelligent socially, even if he has apparent superficial charm.

Keywords: Anti-social personality, Social intelligence, Sociopath, Superficial.

RESUMEN

Las características de la sociopatía varían en el contexto de su superposición con el concepto de "psicopatía y personalidad antisocial". La característica de la inteligencia social está indentificado con sociopatía. Por lo tanto, este artículo fue diseñado para seguir el patrimonio científico de la sociopatía, para especificar sus características y analizarlas con el fin de aclarar la posibilidad de describir al sociópata como inteligente socialmente. A la luz del análisis del concepto de inteligencia social, no es posible describir al sociópata como inteligente socialmente, incluso si tiene un aparente encanto superficial.

Palabras clave: inteligencia social, personalidad antisocial, sociópata, superficial.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social pathology in the explanation of social problems depends on social and cultural causes. Social diseases often lead to a wave of social, economic, and psychological problems that brings disorders in the social fabric. When the disease pervades social construction, it disintegrates slowly before society disintegrates completely. The cause of this disintegration lies in the network of social relations; the society may appear with its exterior as an affluent and developing, while its network of relationship is sick. This social disease appears in interpersonal relations, and the greatest proof of its existence is what inflects the(ego) with (enlargement), that ends with the disintegration of the social body in favor of the individual when the individual regains his independence and authority within the social body. Thus, Social relations are corrupt when persons become infected with enlargement, and the collective work becomes difficult or impossible; also, where the debate is then going on not to solve problems, but to find evidence and proofs. Society loses its human and moral meaning when relations become a tool for realizing individual desires only, and devoid of their human meanings, so, the (ego) separates (us) and becomes sick socially.

Who is the sociopath? Is the sociopath psychopath, or has he antisocial personality? Is he characterized by social intelligence? Questions took a space of debate in the psychological and social fields.

Bibliography shows that the sociopathy has a low interests in the scientific research, which clearly explain the reasons for separation between sociopathy and psychopathy, that has not received adequate attention with special field, research studies separates it from other psychological and personal disorders, or develop a specific measure related to it away from its similar points to psychological disorders, especially in the field of social psychology. But they agreed on a group of features that characterizes the sociopath (Babiak & Hare: 2006; Bouchard et al.: 1990, pp.223–228; Hare: 1991; Pemment: 2013, pp.458-461; Lalich & Tobias: 2006; McGregor: 2013; McGregor & McGregor: 2014; Stout: 2005; Thomas: 2014; Engel: 2011; Mealey: 1995, pp.523-541; Christopher: 1997; Ellis & Penner: 1983, pp.91-98; Cleckley: 1988; Furnham et al.: 2013, pp.199-216; Perry: 2015, pp.17-25):

1. Carelessness to comply with social norms and values, Inability to flex.
2. He is unable to react to situations and events emotionally.
3. The inability to understand the consequences of their emotional actions, because he lacks the sense of guilt or remorse for his inhumane, unsocial, and bad treatment with the others.
4. Limited ability to feel love; Love with the sociopath is synonymous with sex, where sex is a means to achieve physical pleasure and a tool to manipulate the emotions of others, and it is a sense that comes from power, not from passion.
5. Narcissism; the sociopath, is not exactly narcissistic, but as a result of his sense of low self-esteem only, he finds his admiration and love of himself as a mechanism of defense against that feeling
6. The Superficial Charm, the sociopath, is inclined to be simple, naive, charming, and eloquent.
7. Delusions and paranoia; He has false beliefs about himself as the best (self-hypertrophy), and he has a lust for power and control. Often, he believes that he does something good for the community.
8. Sensitivity to negative criticism, because he believes that he always deserves flattery, admiration, and praise, he has enormous feelings of merit, because he always does something good.
9. He is despotic.
10. He may become depressed and bored. He needs constant stimulation.
11. The rush and the reckless behavior; because he believes that he is always right, and his inability to submit to power, attention to the feelings of others and what may cause harm to them, makes him hasty in his reactions, and without thinking about his decision, also, he is considered a maneuvering and bold person.
12. He does not care for others and disregard for their rights and emotions.
13. Irresponsibility: it cannot be depended on him because of his careless and reckless behavior.

14. Pathological Lying: He rarely speaks honestly, lying for him is a way of life, and a good means to achieve his goals and personal benefits. He lies very convincingly. He is persuasive and powerful in expressing his views, not the objective truth. So, this truth is considered the lonely one that helps to achieve his needs.

15. Machiavelli's tendency: The sociopath seeks to benefit from the plight of others, and to find gaps and weak points to exploit them to achieve personal benefits and raise his position for the better. Others for him are tools, goals, or opportunities to achieve his goals.

16. Selfish, he cares only for meeting his own needs and desires.

17. It is difficult for the sociopath to socialize and form a group of friends, but he is forced to do so, as previously mentioned, only for personal benefit. As a result of his carelessness and recklessness, loss of value, and lack of sense of responsibility, affection, and love, others are only tools for him. So, he does not care about building healthy and lasting social relations. He may be unable to understand the feelings of others fully, but he can emulate others brilliantly.

18. He finds it difficult to be committed to work, especially which requires long-term commitments with others.

The fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), issued by the American Psychiatric Association in 2013 in the second axis, category II (B) of personality disorders, puts sociopathy under the anti-social personality disorder, which is similar to the personality disorder underestimating the community as described in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).

According to the US Fifth Diagnostic Guide, the two cases, psychopath and sociopath, are classified as an anti-social personality disorder. The two cases share many behavioral characteristics that lead to confusion between them. Common points between these two cases:

• Disrespecting for social and traditional laws.
• Disrespecting for the rights of others.
• Failure to feel remorse or guilt.
• The tendency to show violent behavior.

Both guides have similar criteria, but not identical. These two guides stated that their diagnosis of the disorder was referred to as "immoral, anti-social personality (or psychopathic) and sociopaths." The term "antisocial personality" is based on a set of personal and behavioral disorders. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary (2004) defines it as a personality disorder characterized by anti-social behavior that appears through the categorical rejection of the rights, feelings, security of others, and the ease of abuse on them. This disorder appears in childhood or early adolescence and continues to grow through adulthood –also, it is named the personality disorder of psychopaths. (p56). These disorders have been characterized by many different names, including anti-Social Personality Disorder, non-social Personality Disorder, Psychopath, or Sociopath. This group of names reflects the clinical complexity of the disorder, along with the fact that it has significant social aspects. (MacKenzie: 2014).

2. METHODS

The Manual Diagnostic Guide to the Diagnostic and Statistical of the Fifth Mental Disorder suggests that a person with an antisocial personality disorder may have "cycopic personality" if he "has little or no fear, he is a bold person and has influential personality styles." Although antisocial personality disorder is not synonymous with a behavioral disorder, the presence of behavioral disorder during childhood or adolescence

may increase the support of the diagnosis of the disdain personality disorder in society. Both DSM-IV and DSM-5 indicated that

The main characteristic of an antisocial personality disorder is the prevailing pattern of disregard and abuse of the rights of others that begins in early childhood or adolescence and continues into adulthood. This pattern has also been referred to as mental illness, sociopathy or socially dysfunctional personality disorder.

Psychopathy and sociopathy are often used interchangeably to give the same meaning. However, the important developments in the field of law and psychiatry have led to the distinction between socially corrupt behaviors that occur because of a personality that has a moral defect, and between individuals who are truly infected with mental disorders or other conditions associated with psychosis and psychosocial nerves (MacKenzie: 2014).

Babiak & Hare (2006) pointed out that there are clear differences between psychopathy and sociopathy. The psychopathy that Hare measured using the PCL-R list means that a person is voided from empathy, moral sense, and several other characteristics (Hare: 1991). For sociopathy, it indicates a moral sense of the person, as well as a clear conscience, but the sociopath sees the right and wrong in a different way from his mother culture. Sociopathy, unlike psychopathy, requires a higher proportion of nerve safety in the median cortex of the frontal lobe of the brain. Persons who are infected with psychopathy, have a small proportion of the gray matter in the anterior lobe, a scheme of increasing size, unusual inconsistency in the hippocampus, the Corpus Callosum in their brains is bigger, a lack of skeletal integrity in the beam, unusual activities in the cerebral cortex , And abnormalities of the amygdala (Pemment: 2013).

Psychopathy is caused by nature (genetics), while sociopathy is the result of a combination of nature, nurturing, and the environment. Psychopathy is related to the physiological defects that result from the lack of development of the part, which is related to responsibility, control, and emotions of the mind while sociopathy tends to be a combination of childhood trauma, emotional abuse, and abnormal socialization, where social disease appears to have been learned from the surrounding environment rather than being innate or inherited as in the case of psychopathy. Social patients are able to empathize in limited circumstances and with specific individuals rather than others (Bouchard et al.: 1990; Hare: 1993). Hare (1991) indicated that psychopathy is characterized by other psychological disorders as having specific syndrome characteristics and patterns associated with the personality and behavior of the individual. Psychopaths are also characterized by multiple criminalities. When psycho patients commit a crime, they plan well for all the details in advance and even prepare alternative contingency plans. They remain calm, relaxed, and precise. On the other hand, any crime committed by the sociopaths happens by accident, not by prior planning.

The sociopathy uses sociopathic behaviors to exercise power in an organization or whenever they are placed in leadership positions. They find their way into a profession where power can be exercised; in a bid to exercise power over others they employ their manipulative skills (Borum et al.: 2002). How do sociopaths manipulate people? They make you feel good about yourself most, especially when the person has low self-esteem, they know what you want and give to you in order to get what they want. **PRETENSE:** sociopaths pretend a lot, and this is the most frightening thing about them, they look normal to everyone, but they are only about themselves. **BLAMING:** They know how to make you feel guilty; they can call you and hang upon you to make you feel your fault; this is a strategy to enable you to make it up to them. **INTIMIDATION:** They can scare you to make you do what they want; this is a way of manipulating someone to satisfy themselves. **SILENCE:** they are always quiet, they use silence as a tool to manipulate people, and they keep this lengthy and uncomfortable silence. **SHAMING:** this is another manipulative tool used by sociopath, you feel even worse by thinking negatively about someone who looks like an upstanding person, they even make you understand that no one will believe you if you talk about their behavior.

The sociopath wants you to interact with them to work their magic into you, do not give them listening ears and they are powerless.

Do not discuss personal issues with them, because they will never discuss their issues with you, always try to discuss neutral topics.

If they offer you gift items, reject it; otherwise, they will use the gift to manipulate you into doing something that will be of benefit to them in the future.

They will tell you fake stories that will make you emotional, and they will need your response, do not believe they always make them understand that you do not believe. They will not try such with you again.

In terms of diversity, which has to do with human differences in terms of social class, gender, physical abilities, ethnicity, race, etc., sociopaths cannot be identified by any readily apparent characteristics such as race, religion, or gender. They are found in every demographic group—men, women, rich, poor, all races, all faiths. They can only be identified by behavior. Sociopaths are not limited to specific regions, race, or ethnicity; they are found everywhere, so also, they involve in any activity and are also empowered like every other individual.

3. RESULTS

The concept of social intelligence introduces a new approach to the search about diseases related to thinking and social behavior, as wonderful coordination between mental abilities and emotions. Empathy is an essential element in building the concept of social intelligence; it is impossible to separate between thinking, behavior, and emotion because each one of them completes the others and interacts with them. Every positive or negative emotion evokes cognitive construction and prior beliefs. Feelings and emotions are necessary to think, exactly as thinking is necessary for feelings and emotions. (Goleman: 2006; Lazarus & Monat: 1974).

Social intelligence is a multidimensional structure that is not explained by one factor. Several concepts of social intelligence have emerged, including internal and external perceptions, environmental conditions, social skills, and some psychological variables, taking into account the social, emotional, and psychological structure of the individual with which they were born. The American Psychiatric Association (1997) defines social intelligence as the ability to understand others, deal with them, and interact with different social attitudes in a socially appropriate manner, and social intelligence is closely related to the individual's personality and behavior. Social intelligence connects with the personality and behavior of the individual. The social intelligent individual is fully aware of himself and can understand his environment (Zirkel: 2000).

Goleman (2006) identified social intelligence as being able to manage one's relationships with others through verbal and social abilities that work simultaneously. Showers & Cantor (1985) indicated that the definition of Social intelligence is the use of knowledge and strategies to achieve the goals of one's personal life. Social Intelligent persons have the deepest knowledge in the world, because social intelligence refers to cognitive components, and does not use individual cognitive processes or structures, but represents procedural knowledge directed to social life, such as rules that control the individual during the formation of stereotypes about others, causal attribution, and social judgments (Cantor & Kihlstrom: 1989).

Social consciousness is an essential dimension of social intelligence; because its content consists of a set of factors and skills that constitute social intelligence (Silvera et al.: 2001; Vasiľová & Baumgartner: 2005; Goleman: 2006), and includes a set of skills: empathy, The validity of reincarnation, the harmony with others, and the emotional response to them through the ability to understand their thoughts, feelings and intentions, and to achieve harmony and friendship, social knowledge comes through the individual's understanding of his social environment and understanding how to deal with it (Goleman: 2006).

Riggio et al. (1991) expressed social awareness as the social sensitivity of daily interaction rules. Cunningham (1998) and Wong et al. (1995) replaced the term social consciousness with the term social cognition in their classification of the dimensions of social intelligence. It is pointed out that situational awareness with empathy, social presence, clarity, and originality, forms an essential dimension of the concept of social intelligence.

Marlowe (1986) perceived social intelligence as having five dimensions: social attention, empathy, social performance, social anxiety, and high sensitivity to emotional states of others.

Silvera et al. (2001) and Vasiľová & Baumgartner (2005) agreed that the dimensions of social intelligence are: processing of social information, social skills, and social consciousness. Riggio and his colleagues did not move away from pre-dimensions, but they focused on social expression, social sensitivity, and social control regarding the performance of social roles perfectly, and considered them fundamental dimensions of social intelligence.

The ability of sociopaths in social chameleons to attract others with his superficial charm has made some persons describe him as socially intelligent, but this is not a rigorous scientific description. The spontaneous or apparent charm usually appears in the lists of characters of psychopathic characters. For example, in Herfi Klikli's book, there is (The Mask of Sanity) as well as in Hare, RD's book "Hare Psychopathy Checklist." This pretense, manipulation, and deception for personal gain; and of expressions associated with "superficial charm", "Exploitation of gravity" and "virtual smile" the sociopath does not wear a superficial charm mask, before creating a positive impression in the mind of others, often, he is able to manage impressions well, we find him skillful in fields of theater, trade, politics, and diplomacy.

This charm is closer to describe the dark side of emotional intelligence as it was described by de (Goleman: 1995). This aspect helps the sociopath to strategically disguise his feelings by disguising a collection of emotions, deliberately shaping his feelings to create favorable impressions for others and manipulate their feelings, and personal gain.

Gardner (2004) points out that emotional intelligence focuses on an individual's personality and knowledge of his feelings, while social intelligence is directed outside the self towards the behavior, feelings, and motivations of others.

Social intelligence includes a coherent set of characteristics and skills and does not mean that one of them is available in the personality of an individual, which allows describing him with social intelligence. In the case of the sociopath, even if he has the ability to manage the impression of others and the superficial charm, we cannot judge him as socially intelligent; because the most prominent qualities of his inability to compassion and sympathy are two essential elements in the formation of social intelligence. And who traits the former characteristics of the sociopath, finds them conflict with or contrast with the dimensions and characteristics of social intelligence; such as disrespect for the rights of others, the tendency to show violent behavior, inability to Commitment to a social or work relationship, impulsive in his behavior, and if the social intelligence coupled with him, he would be more disciplined and aware of social attitudes.

On a very basic level, sociopathy is not fundamentally a matter of psychology – it is a matter of sociology with vast and significant consequences in regards to the organization of individuals in each division of human undertaking. Its quality requires a broad knowledge of what a sociopath is and the identification of his/her improvement at an early age to put them into some ethical framework before it is past the point of no return. Additionally, of need is the screening of sociopaths from getting into or remaining in occupations that include potential brutality and physical maltreatment. At long last, it is essential to ingrain general and organized mindfulness, in every single workplace, of their identity. The strategic maneuver senses of a sociopath frequently make an example of unethical activities that will make them perceivable. However, the subjective activity of building up this example in our mind, or others, requires a proper intellectual framework that comprehends what a sociopath is, just as an individual adherence to an ethical code that on a primary level rejects the sociopath from being romanticized, endured, or imitated

4. CONCLUSION

The sociopathy is considered one of the social diseases, the ailment of individuals is a response to the ailment of the social and cultural construction of their society, which appears in their personality and interaction with others. They are living by the "principle of pleasure," and selfish that makes them unable to sympathy, and they love the power and control of what they have false beliefs about their preferences. So, they tend to disregard the standards and social values, seeking to take advantage of the miseries of others by coloring and lying, unable to engage in social relationships, and form a group of friends. Social intelligence is the result of a combination of factors and skills, most notably: compassion, empathy, social interest, social performance, social awareness, and high sensitivity to emotional states of others. However, he may have a low level of emotional intelligence due to his lies and recklessness. His trick and denial will not last long, especially in light of his inability to continue in social relations.

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