

Olga Zelinková
Czech Republic

New Educational Review

Expert opinion on the article Note Dyslexia. Author: PhDr. Jana Swierkoszová

The article by J. Swierkoszová is extraordinary for many reasons. It informs about a phenomenon that has not been described in the literature yet and is named note dyslexia. The second object of interest is its formal adaptation that is a combination of historical materials quotations (again sporadically used in the literature) with contemporary views and introspection of a young man.

From my point of view, in the compendium of positive aspects the fact that the handicapped individual describes his troubles that nobody noticed in his childhood is very important. The evidence of this young man shows one of the ways which we can use to broaden our knowledge – a description of our own difficulties. From the point of view of forming a colourful picture of specific learning difficulties we can use individual experience and interpret it on the basis of contemporary information. In this way, we obtain new partial information that is not part of the present theory and that also keeps the so-far unexplored spheres up to date, and that is the fine arts.

Scientific content of the article:

I regard the term note dyslexia as really terse, because it expresses the gist of the problem - it means the disability or reduced ability to read music that stands out in view of other abilities and skills. The up to now sporadically used term “dysmusia” is inaccurate because it is too broad.

The formal adaptation is meaningful because individual approaches complement each other. The quotation of A. Heveroch contributes to the appreciation of historical similarities and connections we should not forget. The specific learning difficulties have developed intensively in the last 100 years as we can see from the present situation. It shows the development of information from the

description of one girl's case to a diagnosis of 6 % (respectively 12%) of school population.

I consider casuistry as a valuable part of the article. The boy reading a usual text did not show any difficulties, on the contrary, he learnt how to read at the preschool age. At the same time, he started to play the violin. There was no noticed anomaly in other spheres. Not before maturity did any serious specific difficulties that would be an obstacle to professional career become evident.

The evidence of the young man suffering from note dyslexia is a really valuable source of information. Undoubtedly, this sphere would remain unheeded without his participation and publication permission. His attendance of seminars in specific learning difficulties also played an important role. The young man displayed great courage in telling his story. His experience contributes not only to better knowledge of one of the spheres in specific learning difficulties, but also precautionary measures that should be taken into account while educating young musicians. (It would be possible to lower difficulties by higher concentration on practising the play at sight.) Other musicians may be dealing with similar difficulties, but may not be able to understand their disability.

Casuistry makes a qualitative analysis of note dyslexia possible from the point of view of neurological knowledge and cognitive processes, as mentioned by Professor Zdeněk Matějček.

Conclusion: For the above-mentioned reasons I consider the article really interesting, challenging and really successful. I recommend its publication.