
ABSTRACT

Covert narratives after life-history interviews: Investigation on involuntary memory recall among the middle-aged and the elderly

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The objective of the present study was to investigate the phenomenon of “covert narrative” occurring within an interviewee after an interview using as participants the middle-aged and the elderly adults. The relation between self-narratives in the life-history interviews and involuntary memory recalls after the interviews were examined and the outcomes of memory recalls were explored through the analysis of meanings and emotions of narrated events based on the narrative approach. As a result of that analysis, the processes of “covert narrative” were made clear. The participants were 24 middle-aged and elderly adults ($M=60.4$ years). Self-narratives were promoted through the life-history interview and involuntary memory recall was kept in diaries for seven days after the interview. The results showed the same or similar events as those that had been narrated were recalled after the interview. The meanings and emotions that had been accompanied by some narrated events were altered or increased, respectively. These results suggest that self-narratives could activate subsequent “covert narrative” among the middle-aged and the elderly adults and also indicates the need of paying attention to the client’s state of mind following a clinical interview.

Key Words: narrative, involuntary memory recall, interview, middle-aged and elderly
