

Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice
Artistic Department

Hanna Sitarz

Echolalia.

The Multiplication of the space in the relation word–image.

(abstract)

Doctoral dissertation prepared under direction of the promoter:

Prof. Jacek Rykała

and of support promoter:

Senior Lecturer Dr. Paweł Mendrek

gr. ECHO – "sound", "a kind of sound", "echo"; LALIA – "chatting"
med. the symptom of mental disorders; automatic, intrusive and obsessive
repetition of previously heard words and sounds

› PWN ENCYCLOPEDIA

Involuntary repetition of words or phrases spoken by others.

It occurs in case of children with autism and patients with schizophrenia,
and in the early stage of speech development.

› THE GLOSSARY OF PSYCHOLOGY

As a phenomenon it said to be a dysfunction. Based on the involuntary repetition of sounds and words spoken by someone else, gives the impression of something very weird. It is like a small malice, joke interrupting constructed narration. Confuses and makes uncertainty by its lack of a direct connection with reality. Its strengthening occurs in situations of strong excitement, anxiety or uncertainty – in the moments when something not understandable happens. It does not make any sense. Emotional side of the event (positive or negative), but the strength of its intensity, both great joy as well as fear –intensifies echolalia.

The word Echolalia refers to the phenomenon of echo, which is a result of reflections from the walls, woods and rocks. The reflected sound returns and reaches an ear. But echolalia is something more – it is the "stolen" voice – cited (called) elsewhere and in different time, torn out of the original context and played in the new one. It is like a language deprived of its imperative function – the communication.

Doctoral thesis is a set of two books, one of which contains a collection of copyright texts or quotations and paraphrases from various sources. The second one is the concept of the exhibitions, presenting a set of completed work and projects of planned installation in the view of the specific space

.The subject of the thesis is not only the content of the books (text and made objects, paintings, and planned installations), but also the design of the books itself. Everything refers to the concept of the space and place and the mechanism of repetition.

PhD thesis has become the embodiment of some dream:

To learn a foreign language (strange), but not to understand it: to see the difference in it, so that it will never be balanced by the superficial rituals of speech, communication or banality; to know exactly refracted in a new language impossibility of our language; to learn systematic of the incomprehensible things; to pull down our "reality" under the influence of other structures, see the landscape, which no word (the one of which we are owners) could not neither predict nor reveal at any price.

(R. Barthes, Imperium znaków)

The first "part" of this work is a book with the text. All its contents revolve around the subject of language: the source and echoes, space and place, "the other" and the dialogue. They touch the problem of echolalia, but other than in universal context: echolalia is a different language, incomprehensible, but - as proven by carefully chosen texts - the understanding is not the most important thing. *The speech is not a modification of the intuition (thinking). The speech is the creating of the sense which speaks through the presence of.*

Each of the texts and the way they are presented in the book are further arguments to support the thesis that echolalia is a way of speaking, which comes from different perceptions of the world. In addition, it proves that the discrediting the echo in relation to the origin is not justified.

The second "part" is a book containing reproductions of works and installation projects, which is a concept of the exhibition dedicated to a specific space. the earlier Cited dream takes the form of various attempts of the implement; they have a formal or ideological character, the variety of media and materials are used in here. Each of the works were to bring the author to the goal, just as texts in the previous book did earlier. the thought turns into objects and images, texts and installations. Then work dedicated to a particular gallery, were in the perfect space of the book because designed by the author from the beginning to the end. The Idea of the exhibition, about the works in the gallery space are presented in the book - everything has its place here and is subordinated to the rules of its design.

The third and the final "part" is the exhibition. All the works and projects will be included in the exhibition, which will take place in some time.

The concept of the doctorate assumed creating works that will adhere to the space best-to the space where they are, becoming its integral part. The book it is already done - in a space built by the author.

Therefore, the whole design of the exhibition is based on the study of the place, built a model of the gallery, 3d computer model and sketches.

Some of the works, such as images, exist in reality, others are only a concept - that is of installations that will be able to occur during the process of installing of the exhibition.

The exhibition will be the embodiment of the previous part of the doctoral thesis - that is the echo of both the first book and the second one. The theme that binds everything together is the echolalia from the title- repetition, memory and word.

