

Theatre of the Oppressed: A Tool to the Science

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The Theatre of The Oppressed (TOP), method created by the Brazilian Augusto Boal in the 70's, has been frequently kidnapped from the stages and popular groups to the thinking and scientific diffusion.

Gauthier [1] run the TOP inside a philosophical thinking that shelters in the groups the self-knowledge power, and allows the researcher to search with the body, the intuition and the art, associating what we call rationality. The method allows the researcher to fully contact the individual: word, gesture, representation of its real and abstract, boundaries, emotions and ideas. Sharing the information held in a group that experiences TOP allows the non-stop learning, no matter if the productions are through the investigator's interpretation or through the group's interpretation. The validation of these productions and being genuine and real are cooperative, and for him in this way the knowledge is common sense and scientific.

Critics and scientists question about using TOP in extremely varied cultural areas, socially and economically. Laws are changed, specially the ones that regulates language, however this fact does not keep any people from correlating the Theatre of The Oppressed's methods to another regional Popular Theater, as it is showed in Jana Sanskriti in India, and in the Taiwan Theatre of Chung Chiao [2].

Theatre of The Oppressed can be a tool, and it changes as well as any other instrument in contact with its users, when the user can freely be the instrument's subject, the construction method, because the theatre only happens in the way the subjects happen, and it only happens how and when they want it to. The hermeneutic qualitative research techniques should not come before the subjects and the relation between researcher and co-researcher (subjects), or the research is bound to return to a frustrating state of invariability of some aspects involving humans. Concluding it is about a permanent discussion work about the flow and intimacy in which the Theatre of The Oppressed has been developing the scientific methodology, and expects that we not only bring it down to researches in social areas.

1. Jacques Gauthier et al, "*Pesquisa em enfermagem: novas metodologias aplicadas*". Rio de Janeiro: Ed. Guanabara Koogan, 1998. p. 302.
2. Iona Szeman, "Lessons for theatre of Oppressed from a Romanian Orphanage". *Journal. Cambrigde University Press* **1**, 340-357 (2005).

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