



Athié, Laura (2023). *Counternarratives to discursive violence: The case of people with lupus*. Doctoral thesis in Language Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP). Mexico: BUAP.



The period of uncertainty that someone diagnosed with SLE usually faces influences their ability to communicate their symptoms. This condition makes it difficult to follow treatment. Knowing the **emotional discursive** link of people with SLE offers the doctor autobiographical spheres that positively affect adherence to treatment.

OBJECTIVES:

To analyze the expressive capacity and verbal meanings of the person with lupus based on the discursive patterns of language in the doctor-patient dialogic relationship, and the conceptualization of the stages of the disease and pain in their autobiographical narratives.

METHODS

MIXED

Quantitative-qualitative longitudinal study

2015-2023

people with SLE from Mexico, Latin America, the United States, Italy, and Spain were invited to participate

AUTOETHNOGRAPHY-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

for the qualitative part and a digital survey for the quantitative part. A criticallinguistic and performative analysis of the discourse was carried out. Through Grounded Theory, conceptual categories were derived that allowed classifying the main statements and their meanings.

References: Wodak, Ruth (1995). "Critical Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis", en J. Verschueren, J.-O. Östman y J. Bloomaert (Eds.), *Handbook of Pragmatics*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

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BIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS to strengthen adherence to treatment of people with lupus

Dra. Laura Athié, México

RESULTS



The corpus is 352 testimonies from Mexico and other countries from people between 11 and 65 years of age. The sample was observed for 8 continuous years. In the case of long-term interviews, 22 were carried out, and 4 people were selected, who were observed from 2015-2023. The analysis includes a digital survey by 330 people and drawings/self-representations of adolescents with SLE from several countries.

- The analysis allowed us to define the relationship between emotion and discourse throughout the disease, as well as those meanings that influence the social and relational representation of the person suffering from SLE, the discursive forms used to refer to the medication, treatment, and doctors; to pregnancy or the loss of the baby, to work and to life as a couple and family.
- It was possible to identify a body of metaphors in the speech of the sick person, as well as the uses and meanings of silence.
- From these samples, observations and interviews, a discursive corpus was concentrated that allowed us to derive a Dictionary of Lupic Language, using the methodology of Grounded Theory and Critical Discourse Analysis.

From the findings of this research, particular words and concepts related to lupus life, attachment, abandonment and understanding of the treatment emerge, as well as a particular vocabulary linked to the disease.

Some of the research findings are six narrative plots in the lives of people with SLE, the encounter of archetypes linked to health and illness that influence the identity self-conception of the person with SLE and that contribute to improving the relationship and doctor and patient communication.

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Most named self-adjectifications

Newly diagnosed

Monstrosity, discrimination, abandonment, war, following, terror, fear, segregation, uncertainty, exhausted, anguished, weak, depressed, dependent, slow, limited, fat, fearful, sad, vulnerable.

A word for represent lupus:

Pain, malicious, unpredictable, selfish, hell, fight.

In their in-depth interviews, the majority say:

4 years +

"The illness makes me stronger."
"Lupus is not going to beat me."

The archetype of the Warrior (Guerrera)

Death
Wolf
Butterfly
War

