

Plea for an Intensive Communication

1 Introduction

On Friday, 24th of January 2014, Raija Sollamo asked a question via E-mail. The letter will be very useful for the communication in the Grundtvig-project. In the following the full text is in new format literally quoted as paragraph 2 (enlarged with quotation marks). The ZKE-team answers in paragraph 3.

2 The Question

Dear Peter

Thank you very much for this discussion. It looks to me that some problems arise because our partners have not read carefully the information given in connection to the questionnaire. If they considered the time limit of the last month, the problems and changing situations during one's life time would be excluded. But nevertheless, the Finnish team also regards it as unclear to ask "Do you live with someone?" You could rather ask "Do you live with a partner?" Or you could first ask as you do "Do you live with someone?" Then if this question is replied positively, you could continue with alternatives: "Do you live a) with a partner b) with parents or one of them, c) with an adult daughter or son, d) with someone else". I at least suppose that you include also such cases of domestic violence that take place between an adult son and the mother or between parents (or one of them) and the daughter, etc.

Best wishes,

Raija

3 The Answer

Method follows purpose

The purpose of the ZKE-questionnaire is to identify violence problems in an empirically described group of women. This purpose is achieved by form 8 of the questionnaire, as the pre-tests show. Form 8 is the German paper-version. Further tests have to prove, whether the new online-version and the translations will serve the purpose in the same way.

The question "Do you live with someone?"

The questionnaire examines women and men as interaction partners. It would have been very helpful for an interpretation to know whether a woman lives with a male partner. In the beginning of the study the question was: "Do you live with a male partner?" This question evoked comments like "No, with a female partner! Your question hurts me!" and "Your team is behind the times! I live with my husband and my boyfriend in a common household!" To have respect for the various ways of life the final text in the German version is "Leben Sie in

einer Partnerschaft?“ The translator of the English version makes the following suggestions. He translates the question into “Do you live with somebody?“ He asks the national translators to compare the German and the English version. And he asks the national translators to decide about the best translation according to the situation in their own country. The aim is avoiding to hurt the tested women.

New approach needs communication

Strauss and Douglas introduce their “Conflict Tactics Scales” (CTS2) for measuring partner violence (Murray A. Strauss, Emily M. Douglas: A Short Form of the Revised Conflict Tactics Scales, and Typologies for Severity and Mutuality” in: Violence and Victims, Volume 19, Number 5, October 2004, 507 – 521). Item 3 of a short form reads: “I insulted or swore or shouted or yelled at my partner”. The answer-possibilities range from 1 to 8. According to the authors the CTS2 is the most widely used instrument for this purpose. Queries like the CTS2 are well-known. The ZKE-team rejects this type of a questionnaire because of the severe shortcomings and develops an own approach. The new method requires an intense exchange of ideas between the Grundtvig-partners with mutual misunderstanding and understanding.