

Basic Researches in Communication and Media Studies

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KOME Editors¹

Introduction to the First Issue of KOME – An International Journal of Pure Communication Inquiry

We are proud to present the first issue of KOME, a new academic journal aiming to serve as a scene for an innovative interdisciplinary discourse in the field of communication studies, with a focal point on basic researches. Our intention is to make a contribution to the discussion and research in the area of pure communication inquiry through the publication of both original research articles and other types of scientific communications. Submitted manuscripts are reviewed internally as well as by external reviewers, going through a preliminary selection by the editors before the double-blind review process.

KOME was founded by two members of the Hungarian Communication Studies Association, Marton Demeter and Janos Toth, with the intention of creating a professional scientific journal for Hungary's leading learned society in the field of communication and media studies, and of providing publication opportunities for results covering basic research issues of this specific segment of social sciences. The articles published in KOME are offered as an open-access publication, without any fees or charges for the authors or the readers, and using a copyright licensing approach that does not prevent them from copying and distributing any of the journal's contents (except selling it for a profit) if the first publication by KOME, with an URL link and complete bibliographic details, is referenced.

On Pure Communication Inquiry

Since KOME focuses mainly on basic researches, the following proposal suggest (unexclusive) elucidations of pure communication researches.

A Ordinary methods of constructing communication theories normally presuppose a given concept and/or phenomena of communication; presuppositions of this kind give the primitives of individual theories. Explaining or proving primitives could not - and need not - be achieved within the confines of the theory includes them. Naturally, a meta-theory could challenge the postulates of a normal theory, and it could try to explain or criticize them; still, the very same meta-theory has its own primitives and postulates which could not be, and need

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not be explained or proved by the instruments of its own: so any meta-theory is a normal theory in connection with itself. The order of theories is potentially infinitely successive: there are no logical cogency forces a maximal resolution for a given theory (while, of course, it could be reasonable to argue for an optimal resolution).

The very fact that communication theories operate on postulated or primitive communication-concepts necessarily holds for theories searching the right concept of communication, and for those of which try to eliminate it: since the categories of labelling are given, so are the results of categorization (though as a process it could be uncompleted or even unbegun).

B Theories on communication could be categorized in regard to the sets of communicative phenomena they operate on.

(i) When theory A could exhaustively describe phenomena described by theory B, then theory A is an *alternative* of theory B;

(ii) When theory A could exhaustively describe phenomena described by theory B, and, in addition, phenomena could not be described by theory B, then theory A *subsumes* theory B;

(iii) When theory A could exhaustively describe phenomena described by theory B with less primitive terms, then theory B could be *reduced* to theory A;

(iv) When theory A could describe (at least a subset of) phenomena described by theory B with higher relevant resolution, then theory A is *specialization* of theory B;

(v) When theory A could give postulates for phenomena described by theory B with which phenomena described by theory B (and theories C, D etc.) could be exhaustively described, then theory A is the *ground* of theory B, and theory B is a *model* of theory A;

Connections (i) – (v) are typical relations between theories; any ascertained relation *ARB* could be considered as an intellectual plus, and, for a pure communication research, it is strongly required.

Consider, that a pure communication inquiry could be alternation, subsumation, reduction, specialization, grounding and modelling alike.

C A pure communication research could be imagined at least three ways.

1 First, a pure communication research could analyze the postulates and primitives of a given theory, so concepts which are being used as given. Because of the fact that, unlike mathematical models, communication theories usually do not exhibit their primitive terms and presuppositions, a pure communication research has to reveal them.

2 Second, a pure communication research could analyze the occurrences of the term „communication” in a given natural language. The after-come of a research of this kind could be multifarious. An empirical research could describe speech acts carried out with sentences including the expression „communication”. But the aim of a philosophical or conceptual analysis is much more than a pure description, because it could explore the logical structure

of sentences including a given expression, and, typically, it could indicate that the ordinary-language uses of a given expression could be misleading in philosophy or in sciences. Furthermore, a genetic research is a pure communication research per se, which investigates (for example, with the tools of etymological analysis) the oldest or most basal occurrences of a given expression. Genetic researches have serious tradition in not just historical or philological sciences but in logics and semiotics as well. Likewise in the case of questing ordinary language, genetic researches investigate language uses of a given community, but the genetic method is the stronger, because it's outcomes are being held as normative, not just descriptive.

3 Third, a pure communication research could analyze the possibility of a communication theory which could realize at least one of the relations mentioned under B.

D So, a pure communication research constitutes innovation, but this innovation could be either construction or appliance.

Research Themes for KOMÉ

Following the elucidations suggested above, we think that the broadly defined research themes below are the ones in KOMÉ's center of interest:

1. *Defining pure communication.* Research projects of this kind rise questions in connection with:

- 1.1. The possibility of communication
- 1.2. The concept of communication
- 1.3. The epistemology of communication
- 1.4. The gnoseology of communication
- 1.5. The ontology of communication
- 1.6. The scientific place of communication theories
- 1.7. The horizontal adequacy of communication theories (i.e. concerning a specific level of reality)
- 1.8. The vertical adequacy of communication theories (i.e concerning multiple levels of reality)
- 1.9. Other basal inquiries in connection with the concept, the idea, the nature or the phenomena of communication.

2. *Methods for pure communication research.* Research projects of this kind rise questions in connection with:

- 2.1. The presuppositions of theoretic communication inquiries
- 2.2. The presuppositions of empirical communication research
- 2.3. The application of extraneous methods to communication inquiries
- 2.4. The adaptation of extraneous methods to communication inquiries
- 2.5. The genuine properties of the special methods of communication inquiry, if there are any
- 2.6. The analysis of existing methods in the scope of communication research
- 2.7. Other basal inquiries in connection with the methods of communication research

3. *Axioms, lemmas and conjectures for pure communication inquiries.*

4. *The relational properties of pure communication inquiries.* Research projects of this kind rise questions in connection with:

- 4.1. The reflexive relation in the case of communication theories, i.e., communication inquiry as communication.
- 4.2. The symmetric relations in the case of communication theories, for example, communication as information processing and information processing as communication
- 4.3. The asymmetric relations in the case of communication theories, such as inclusion
- 4.4. The relations between communication inquiries and other disciplines such as theology, philosophy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, social sciences, cognitive sciences, computer science and A.I.

On the Contents of the Current Issue

We were surprised by the numbers and geographical diversity of the submissions that we have been received, although we had to realize that a significant proportion of submissions was incompatible with our profile – we hope that the above clarifications on pure communication inquiry and preferred research themes will help our future authors in identifying our journal as suitable for their manuscripts. As for the content of the current issue, the reader would find examples of pure inquiries. The paper *Permutations of Theory – open channels then and now* argues that public access Television was a forerunner of today's internet, as it strengthened viewers' interactive capabilities by involving them in the production processes of video material. *Clear, unclear and non-media – an attempt at conceptualisation* investigates the semantic scope of the term 'media' and then it tries to identify differences postulated essential in the structure and operation of the constituents of the institutional structure it marks, while the discussion *On Analysis and its Role in Communication Theories* explicates the main types of analysis and then applies its analytical methods on Watzlawick's first axiom of human communication, and tries to show, that the statement that '*one cannot not communicate*' is either false or meaningless. Finally, *Mediated communities in the age of electronic communication* tries to show that the electronically mediated communication has transformed our notion of the relation between place and community.