

Metacommunication as Second Order Communication

KOME – An International Journal of Pure
Communication Inquiry
Volume 5 Issue 1, p. 80-90.
© The Author(s) 2017
Reprints and Permission:
kome@komejournal.com
Published by the Hungarian Communication
Studies Association
DOI: 10.17646/KOME.2017.15

Samuel Mateus
Madeira University, Portugal

Abstract: By giving full emphasis to the impossibility of not to communicate, the first axiom of communication stresses how communication is an event not subject to cessation. It is this never-ending characteristic that impels us to the need to ponder on metacommunication as “communication *about* communication”. By taking a philosophically informed and pragmatic stance, this paper deals with the concept of “metacommunication” and tries to incorporate it in the theory of communication. It posits communication is a multilevel dialectical happening in which metacommunication presents itself a kind of second order communication. The paper describes communication as an *ad infinitum* process in which every communication supposes always more communication. Metacommunication is the answer to the relationship level of communication and that’s why we postulate metacommunication as a *re-communicating communication*.

Keywords: Metacommunication; Communication Theory; Pragmatics of Human Communication; Bateson; Watzlawick; Metaporo