

## **Metamorfozy tożsamościowe w świetle autonarracji trzeźwiejących narkomanów z wirtualnej grupy samopomocy „Narkomania”**

Identity transformations in the light of drug addicts'  
narratives from the virtual support group „Narkomania”

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**Abstract** – *Introduction.* The article refers to the dialogical self theory (DST) of Hermans. It addresses the following research questions: 1. What conditions have to be fulfilled for the initiation of a sobering process? 2. What factors support and disrupt the course of reintegration? 3. Which functions of reintegration may a virtual support group fulfil? 4. From what “I” positions narration is articulated by users of forum? 5. Do narrations articulated from the position of sober drug addict and conventional one differ in terms of the frequency with which pronouns connected with self are used and if yes, how can this be explained? 6. What changes take place in a sober drug addict’s self, when beginning to form abstinence motivation?

*Method.* Analysis of 701 posts written by users of the forum „Narkomania” (mainly by women) on the basis of a code paradigm originating from the grounded theory and frequency analysis of pronouns connected with self in narrative posts. In addition, to address fifth research question covariance analysis, independent one-sample student’s t-test and one dimensional linear regression were used.

*Results.* The reintegration of active users of the forum „Narkomania” includes 4 stages: 1. forming an abstinence motivation, 2. institutional care for sober drug addicts, 3. confrontation with “narcotic impulses” in private life, 4. integration of the self on the basis of conventional roles. Important biography events, such as pregnancy and motherhood, allowing to add conventional self-definitions to a central part of the self and the active participation in virtual support group meant to assist sober drug addicts in keeping up an abstinence motivation. Reintegration functions of virtual support group include: catharsis, integration and bounding, advice and information, optimization of self-esteem, abstinence promotion, strengthening personal resources and negation of stereotypes. Narrations are described as: 1. a sober drug addict “I” position confronting the desired self with retrospective unwanted self, 2. a sober drug addict “I” position facing only the past and 3. a conventional self-position. Pronouns connected with self occur more often in narrations of sober drug addict than conventional self. Identity transformations become manifest through the reinterpretation of the meaning and affective connotations of taking drugs.

**Key words:** reintegration process (sobering), abstinence, narration (autonarration), “I” position, polifonic dialogue

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