

# *Another look at Autism*

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# I

## General View on this Presentation

What I want to/have to say here is  
that

Negativism and Positivism or  
Medical amendment and Natural nakedness in  
Autism

have to “walk up” to each other...

# 1-1. Negativism or Medical amendment in Autism

- **ASD:** Autism Spectrum Disorder has;
  - persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction.
  - restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities.

(See DSM-5, 2013)

American Psychiatric Association(APA)'s DSM-5 described ASD as “a single umbrella” condition and transposed “L.Wing’s triad” to “diad”.

# 1-2. Negativism or Medical amendment in Autism

**ASD:** Autism Spectrum Disorder is characterized;  
-by persistent deficits in the ability to initiate and to sustain reciprocal social interaction and social communication, and  
-by a range of restricted, repetitive, and inflexible patterns of behaviour and interests.

(See ICD-11, 2018)

World Health Organization(WHO)'s ICD-11 almost followed DSM-5. Of course, DSM is accepted mostly in USA, but ICD is circulated in other worlds but there. Thus these medical ideas are used all over the world.

## 2. Positivism or Natural nakedness in Autism

### People with ASD:

- I am not defective. I am different.
- I will not sacrifice my self-worth for peer acceptance.
- I am a good and interesting person.
- I will take pride in myself.
- I am capable of getting along with society.
- I will ask for help when I need it.
- I am a person who is worthy of others' respect and acceptance.
- I will find a career interest that need time to understand me.
- I am never going to give up on myself.
- I will accept myself for who I am.

(See Willey 2001[2011], p.164)

### 3. Negatives and Positives in a child with ASD

| Qualities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Difficulties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Honest<br>Determined<br>An expert on insects and the <i>Titanic</i><br>Aware of sounds that others cannot hear<br>Kind<br>Forthright<br>A loner (and happy to be so)<br>A perfectionist<br>A reliable friend<br>Good at drawing<br>Observant of details that others do not see<br>Exceptional at remembering things that other people have forgotten<br>Humorous in a unique way<br>Advanced in the knowledge of mathematics<br>Liked by adults | Accepting mistakes<br>Making friends<br>Taking advice<br>Managing my anger<br>Handwriting<br>Knowing what someone is thinking<br>Avoiding being teased<br>Showing as much affection as other family members expert<br>Coping with sudden noises<br>Explaining thoughts using speech |

(Quoted from Attwood 2007[2015], p.343)

## 4. Facts are facts...

### **Aspies are:**

- visual thinkers.
- literal thinkers.
- routine oriented.
- inflexible thinkers.
- weak socializers.
- more truthful than not.
- rule oriented.
- obsessive about their favorite interests.
- principally unable to understand other's point of view.

### **Aspies tend to:**

- have low self-esteem.
- enjoy time spent with older and younger people more than time spent with their same age peers.
- interrupt people while they are in mid-sentence.
- find eye contact a difficult skill to master.
- have very vivid nighttime dreams.
- have poor executive functioning skills.
- have average to above average IQ's.
- find it difficult to do more than one task at a time.
- be uncoordinated.
- have a high pain tolerance.
- be very ethical and moral.
- find introspection very difficult.
- be very vulnerable to stress.
- vocalize their inner thoughts.
- Find emotions difficult to discuss or understand.
- have difficulties with interpersonal relationships.
- have strong verbal skills.
- copy others' behaviors, words, accents and appearance.

(See Willey 2001[2011], pp.162-163)

## II

### Respective Views in detail

- 1. On “Theory of Mind” (ToM)
- 2. Teasing or bullying people with ASD in a classroom or workplace.
- 3. Beyond the innate, dualistic “doxas” of our own.

# 1. On “Theory of Mind”(ToM)

## Can ToM itself mindread ?

- Simon Baron-Cohen supposed people with ASD cannot imagine others' minds (See Baron-Cohen1995[1997]).
- However, could he imagine their minds?
- They are only minority being able to imagine themselves' minds (See Komeda et al.[2014])

## 2. Teasing or bullying people with ASD in a classroom or workplace.

- People with ASD as “minority” tend to say or express everything they think in their minds.
- People without ASD as “majority” might be thinking of themselves as being kind of cowardice because of keeping the silence on their naked within.
- People with ASD tend not to be able to be there because of teasing/bullying or their own cares of majority.

### 3. Beyond the innate, dualistic “doxas” of our own.

Letting Frankfurt school as the “righteous left” and Jacques Derrida as a kind of “relativist” be, we consider M.K.Gandhi as a person with ASD (Okada[2009],pp.225-226]) as having attempted to be “beyond the innate, dualistic ‘doxas’ of our own”, which are, in other words, “linguistic structure”(=le ling) in French structurism or “discernment”(=Sanskrit: vikalpa; classical Chinese: 分別; and so on) in Buddhism.

## 3.1 M.K.Gandhi, as a inner revolutionist.

- A quote from Gandhi:

“We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do.”

(See ‘Falser Words Were Never Spoken’ by Brian Morton in *The New York Times*, Aug.29, 2011 and <https://quoteinvestigator.com/2017/10/23/be-change/#note-17089-11>).

This quote is known in some abridged versions such as “Be the change you wish to see in the world”...

## 3.2 M.K.Gandhi, as a partial liberator.

- Gandhi's liberation was only oriented just toward Indian independence from the Britain but not toward Caste system itself.
- Gandhi stressed the need of Caste system through concentrating on their own *varṇas*.

Here are underlying various matters such as the ways of individuality in the societies between the East and the West.

### 3.3.1 Methodologies for the sake of transcending the innate, dualistic doxas.

- M.K.Gandhi: Hindu-centrism, though he denied any discrimination through Caste system. All the antique Indian thoughts targeted at the liberation from the sufferings in this world. Gandhi himself stressed their “inner revolution”.
- Buddhism: Gautama Śiddhārtha the Buddha expanded the Brahmanical range/limitation of liberation from samsaric existence, though it had been exiled from India. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar featured Buddhism in having attempted to liberate Dalits from Caste system. Buddhism finally needs the individual mental state without discernments(無分別).

### 3.3.2 Methodologies for the sake of transcending the innate, dualistic doxas.

- French structurism: They were/are basically relativist. Without facing facts of life, they shift the basic systems. They have no absolute hierarchies. (See Derrida1981[2004],pp.38-39)
- Taoism: It also targeted at a transcendent, supra-mundane view from mundane duality.

All of them was equal with struggling with their own minds. Our minds have been afflicted with the linguistic structure based on the duality. Hinduism and Buddhism called it samsara started from before without beginning and perhaps psychoanalysis named it the unconsciousness.

### 3.4 The West and the East, or the knots between the Social and the Individual on Autism

On the one hand, the East represented the individualized sociality but the West represents the socialized individuality; on the other hand, the East taught us to attain enlightenment within our minds but the West urges us to be happy in their social lives.

“The other side cannot stand up?”

# III

## Toward dialogues for the sake of mutual growths of both majority and minority

- As far as we lean on literally classical methodologies, we have to implement the unnatural practice to obtain the natural state.
- However, have we all to philosophize this complicated situation ?

# The lives as “the sins” that we think of what we thought in our minds as real.

- Who is/are thinking of and who have us think of ?
- Are what we are thinking of really true ?
- Can we separate ourselves from what “someone” lets us think ?
- If so, we, majority and minority, can reunite at the point of practice that we think of wholesome deeds beyond the so-called “sins” that we think of spontaneously.
- I call them innate, natural “preconceptions” which even children can hold.
- This mundane world has been filled with such filthy TV programs as showing something like the unconstitutional “beauty contests”.
- A master of Nying ma school in Tibetan Buddhist tradition taught the theory of “co-arising of both liberation and samsara”.

*Let's accept this world as such !*

Not through inborn or acquired  
duality but through our own  
compassion, that is, the mind of love.

*Nothing but love is truth !*

Our only practice is to cultivate the  
compassion.

# IV

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