arts and humanities

Oficina Sub_35¹:

articulations between Theater and Cultural Studies

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Abstract

Oficina Sub_35 brought together a group of unemployed individuals to participate in a theatre workshop, that had as premise combining theatrical techniques, methodologies of action-research and the theoretical field of the Cultural Studies. It was an objective of this doctoral internship to analyze and evaluate like how this fields can be articulate: in the acquisition of skills, in the development of autonomy, in the development of self-esteem, in promotion of responsibility and in the stimulus for the search of new options, adapted to the personal characteristics of the individuals.



Fig 1/ Pictures of the construction process of the scenes, improvisation.

This workshop took place at the São João National Theatre (TNSJ), in the context of Cultural Studies Network, a network created by the Doctoral Program in Cultural Studies (UA/UM) involved the doctoral projects of the doctoral program in Cultural Studies: «Contemporary theatrical dramaturgy: individual and social identity reconfigurations face young unemployment », developed by Marta Leitão, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Maria Manuel Baptista and Prof. Dr. Larissa Latif and «Dreamers of Shadows: a cartography of the light Poetic Opus Lux», developed by lara Regina Souza, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Maria Manuel Baptista and Prof. Dr. Wlad Lima.

The action process developed in the Oficina Sub_35 started from a central problematic – young unemployment – and it aimed to explore the collaborative theatre processes, to promote a collective dramaturgy. In the field of Cultural Studies research, "(...) works primarily with problems of ' 'translation' and justification, not looking for exactly the 'objective truth', but understanding the deeper meaning of the speeches and the cultural and social representations" (BAPTISTA, 2009, p. 25).

The Oficina Sub_35 tried to be an exercise of thinking, of bricolage the events and the theory as a form of reinvention of daily micropolitics, returning to the inventiveness a character of resistance through which the subjectivities are re-shaped constantly.



Fig 2/ Scene of the final result of the Oficina_Sub 35.

Objective - To understand in which way, it is possible to articulate Theatre, Cultural Studies and Action-research for the promotion of strategies of resistance and identity, individual and social reconfiguration for a transformation guided by the micropolitical agency as a result of the action of social actors.

Individuals - Seven individuals in situation of unemployment, with 35 years or less, inserted in the planning of the Educative Service of the National Theater São João (TNSJ). The workshops were carried out between October 12 and 17 December 2015, in the White Room in the TNSJ.

Method - the action-research is a methodology based on an epistemological perspective and empirical knowledge. The simultaneous articulation between theory and practice is achieved through cyclical movements in dialectic spiral (Latorre, 2003) of planning, implementation and evaluation of the action. The action-research methodology assumes an essentially political character: provides, contributes and takes as an end, the transformation of social actors, communities and institutions, as well as the reality in which these insert. The process of action was built according to the principles of collaborative creation, through an articulation between methods and theatrical techniques: Theatre Games, Theatre of the Oppressed (Boal, 2013) and Devising Theatre.

In Oficina Sub-35 resistance strategies were worked in the face of prolonged unemployment situation, activities in which, individuals as well as their life stories, were tools for the construction of a collective narrative, by means of which the participants were able to express themselves and rebuild social and personal senses.

Data Production - Literature review; participant observation; captain's log, use of audiovisual means and a questionnaire.

Analysis of the data – To the group of 7 participants of the Oficina Sub_35 was applied a questionnaire with closed and half-open questions. Of the collected data we present only two of the dimensions what we tried to develop next to the participants: motivational mechanisms and strategies of resistance, to understand in which way the articulation between the theatre and the action-research promoted relative tools to other sub dimensions: development of individual, social and theatrical skills.

We call motivational mechanisms to the desires and potentialities that individuals bring in relation to their expectations regarding the workshop. The strategies of resistance are the skills that the individuals consider purchasing in the process and that contribute to their empowerment.

The results are presented in tables 1 and 2.

MOTIVATIONAL MECHANISMS									
Development of individual skills									
Yes		No		N/A					
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male				
3	3	0	0	1	0				
6		0		1					
Development of social skills									
3	3	0	0	1	0				
6		0		1					
Development of theatrical skills									
Yes		No		N/A					
3	2	0	1	1	0				
5		1		1					

Table 01 / Motivational mechanisms: development of individual, social and theatrical skills.

DEVELOPMET RESISTANCE STRATEGIES Individual skills									
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male				
4	3	0	0	0	0				
7		0		0					
Social skills									
3	2	1	1	0	0				
5		2		0					
Theatrical skills									
7	0	0	0	0	0				
7		0		0					

Tabela 02/ Resistance strategies through the articulation between Theatre, Cultural Studies and Research-action: development of individual, social and theatrical skills.

Starting from the data expressed in table 1 and table 2 it is possible to come to some conclusions: the development of individual, social and theatrical skills, as the reasons that led individuals to the participation in the Oficina Sub_35 (tab. 1) are singled out by a significant majority as positive; on the other hand, the search for individual and social skills are more strongly pointed than searches for theatrical skills.

In both cases we noted a tendency for motivational mechanisms have focused on strengthening the individual and their social context through theatrical techniques.

As for the development of strategies of resistance (tab. 2) the individuals consider unanimously purchasing individual and theatrical skills either, but when it comes to social skills is there a variety of answers. Possibly this is due to the short time of the workshop, which hindered the deepening of the closer to social skills.

In view of young unemployment problematic and of the conjugation between theoretical-empirical that we promote in the Oficina Sub-35, we consider that the objectives we set ourselves have been achieved globally.

References

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