

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Fish's Clinical Psychopathology, Third Edition: The Beginning of Eclectic Psychopathology**

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Each patient that we examine in our clinic with medical problems is composed of both physical and also mental signs and symptoms. Mental signs and symptoms may or may not exhibit overtly. Therefore, all medical students should have a basic knowledge of signs and symptoms of psychiatric disorders. This is accomplished by 'Fish's clinical psychopathology'. This book is meant for 'descriptive psychopathology' from its beginning and it can be said that, it teaches ABC of psychopathology. After two decades of second edition, the third edition of this book is welcome with all aspect. Chapters in third edition organized similar to that of second edition.

Recent advances in neurobiology, phenomenology, and classificatory system have dictated a complete restructuring of the chapters. To keep up with the current trends great efforts have been made to weed out unnecessary outdated information and to streamline the available updated information. But, their decision of removing certain well known contributors' names from the areas of psychopathology is a concern.

This edition scores over the previous edition in terms of avoiding usage of confusing terms like "psychopathology" in the place of the term "morbid". Certain confusions over definitions have been made clearer in the present edition. The references have been added at end of each chapter rather at the end of book which is beneficial to the readers. The neurobiology of delusion has been described with evidence of cognitive as well as neuro-imaging perceptive, where authors tried to extend 'descriptive psychopathology' to 'experimental psychopathology'.

The psychiatric syndromes are well presented in appendix-1. Similarly in appendix-II, authors have strategically placed the defenses and distortions, in an attempt to explain the psychopathology on "psychodynamic concept" and also explaining the basis of cognitive distortions, is a true reflection of recent trend of successful use of cognitive therapy in many psychiatric disorders. The authors could have revised

with updated concept of mood and affect keeping in trend of recent emergence of interest in concept of mood and affect which could have beneficial in day to day practice of mental health professionals (Serby, 2003; Manjunatha et al., 2008).

Limited description on neurotic aspect of psychopathology is serious limitations in this updated third edition, since there is evidence to shows that prevalence of anxiety spectrum disorder exceed the psychotic disorder. The phenomenology on substance dependence has been neglected again despite its higher prevalence in any community (Sahoo et al., 2007). The spectrum psychiatric disorder, which classified based on similar phenomenology could have been added e.g. impulsivity and compulsivity. The missing of detail descriptions of Kurt Schneider's first rank symptoms (FRS), Nancy Andreasen's Thought-Language-Communication (TLC) concept as well as positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia also concern. The clinical assessment of descriptive psychopathology including art of interviewing is lacking throughout the book. The linguistic improvement is welcome especially to the students.

The authors successfully attempted the beginning of "eclectic psychopathology" keeping in the recent trend of re-emerging interest in 'psychodynamic psychopathology', conventional 'descriptive psychopathology' and promising trends in neuro-imaging research in the 'experimental psychopathology' (Manjunatha and Saddichha, 2006; Mahli and Lagopoulos, 2008). Overall, authors in this edition have succeeded in their goal to keep the spirit of Fish's original psychopathology.

## References

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