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‘THE BORES AND BORED’: BOREDOM AS AN INTERACTIONAL PHENOMENON

The presentation has a definitional character and draws attention to the interactional characteristics of boredom treating it as a socially constructed phenomenon. The majority of definitions of the emotion in question neglect its social, relational aspect. The presentation proposes relational definition of boredom constructed based on the qualitative sociological research at the university milieu (students and academic teachers). Proposed conceptualization is also an addition and development of previous studies in subject (Barbalet 1999; Darden, Marks 1999 and Brisset, Snow 1993). Two main elements of this definition constitutes: disconnection (interactional withdrawal, indifference) and meaninglessness. Boredom is conceptualized as a liminal emotion, a conveyor belt to other emotions or activities.