

Types of schizophrenia : A clinical criteria : Oriented approach

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This study aimed to evaluate and compare two different methodological approaches to classification : The empirical approach or logical empiricism as embodied in DSM-III-R Classification of schizophrenia and the ideal type approach as embodied in the classification of schizophrenia proposed by Rakhawy (1991).

Ninety-four male schizophrenic patients were classified using two different approaches (DSM-III-R and the proposed classification by Rakhawy, 1991).

Each subject was assessed using PANSS The study showed that defining psychiatric disorders in terms of specified and explicit diagnostic criteria (operational definitions) may hide the lack of validity (inadequate discriminated validity and low coverage), which poses certain limitations on the use of operational definitions in

clinical practice. Furthermore, this study has shown that clinical judgment based on empathic understanding can be a reliable diagnostic method.