Root Metaphors, Accounts, and Relational Development

➢ Root metaphor
- Captures experiential gestalts
- A (tenor) is B (vehicle)

➢ Researcher defined and informant defined.

➢ Kovecses: Love as a: journey, force, nutrient, unity, heat, fluid in a container, hidden object, living organism, machine, commodity, etc.

Root Metaphors, Accounts, and Relational Development

➢ Baxter's study:
- Relationship is a "book": construct table of contents of book's chapters, title them, then verbally elaborate on audiotape.
- Analysis of transcripts of interviews for manifest and latent metaphors.
- 53 men/53 women➔ 472 metaphoric expressions
- Seven root metaphors: *Work, Journey of Discovery, Uncontrollable force, Danger, Economic exchange, Game.*
- Summary Table A (p. 96)
- Folk-logics at various points in relational development

Chaos Theory, Communication, and Relational Development

➢ Three types of change:
- Deterministic (Initial conditions accurately predict long-term outcomes)
- Random (Initial conditions cannot predict short- or long-term outcomes)
- Stochastic (Initial conditions predict some short-term outcomes, but long term difficult)

➢ Linear (thermostat and room temp) and nonlinear dynamic systems (weather)

Chaos Theory, Communication, and Relational Development

➢ Romantic relationships linear or nonlinear dynamic systems?

➢ Sensitivity to initial conditions (small differences in inputs can lead to divergent paths to various outcomes)

➢ Butterfly effect—Butterfly wing flap in Amazon might produce a Texas tornado

➢ Insignificant relational events (e.g., careless comments, chance meetings, overheard conversations, and so on) can alter a relational course; while large events can also be absorbed and keep a system stable.

➢ Hysteresis—Nonlinear dynamic system resists change in spite of mounting pressure.

➢ Control parameters– Allows for variability of systems (how open to explore new patterns is the system?

Chaos Theory, Communication, and Relational Development

➢ Phase shifts: Change from one state to another (new meanings, new functions)

➢ Stability-instability point: Bifurcation point (pushed further beyond steady-state)

- Ex (Levenger, 1980): Attraction→ Building relationship→ Continuance (growing satisfying continuance, placid static continuation, unstable conflictual continuation) → Divergence→ Exit.

Chaos Theory, Communication, and Relational Development

➢ Attractors:

- Pattern of stability; point or pattern around which and towards which phenomenon are drawn (e.g., state of calmness of water at rest)
- EX: Relational Dialectics over time example (p. 107)
- Behavioral pattern then underlies period of stability.

➢ Self-organization– ability of a system to reorganize itself (elements and sub-elements, change overtime).

➢ Communication as the process by which self-organization occurs.

Chaos Theory, Communication, and Relational Development

- Routine communication to maintain status quo; strategic communication during phase shifts (Duck)
- Reconfirm intimacy/caring, create shared meanings/understandings, engage in joint problem solving, establish new patterns, reinforce emotional sharing/intimacy.
- Scope/scale: Rapid changes/short time; Slow changes over long times.