Prayer/"prayer" duality real nature and conceptualization: the connection to Covid-19

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Abstract— The purpose of this article is reinforcing the understanding of the real nature of prayer/"prayer" duality, justifying its conceptualization, and connecting this concept to Covid-19. Although the relation between prayer and language has been questioned, there is no reason to unrelate these two concepts. Prayer concept explains "a deeper layer" in the cognitive system. Let us remember the concept of prayer related to language, is just a research option. The other alternative is going back to traditional generative grammar from "Syntactic Structures" (Chomsky, 1957) on, as mentioned from the very beginning of this research line.

Index Terms— cognition, covid-19, language, mind, nature, prayer, prayer/"prayer" duality.

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1 INTRODUCTION

THE potential relation between language and prayer in research terms, is a very old one. Dating back to Rene Descartes research of prayer and meditation (Rubidge, 1990), finding insight within prayer phenomenon has attracted the focus of scholars through human history. Let us remember Descartes himself was a mathematician as well, therefore we can speculate with good success chances, on the harmony between his reason and his faith. Thomas Aquinas also had a scientific and spiritual mind, trying to find the meeting point between faith and science, including the prayer phenomenon, with high levels of success.

In the 20th century, Chomsky took Cartesian concepts of thought and creativity, and transformed them into a rational model of language, conveying phenomena like prayer are only manifestations of language, from "Cartesian Linguistics" (1966) on (Chomsky, 2009). All this before my own insight on the actual potential of prayer phenomenon to explain language (Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020).

Chomskian linguistics has been the dominant path of research to understand language (Taylor, 2019). However, my own research on the potential relation between language and prayer, aims at going one step further from that model (Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020).

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Prayer/"prayer" duality

Prayer/"prayer"duality can be defined as a cognitive-related realm in which prayer and other deep and mysterious language-related activities take place (Alvarez, 2018, 2019).

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2.2 Language

Language is a system of communication, with mysterious properties and dynamics, hard to identify right now (Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021). No external theory seems to fit this definition.

2.3 COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease that was first reported in Wuhan, China and has spread worldwide since then (Wu *et. al.*, 2020).

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Introductory considerations

The relation between prayer and language is not just a claim as suggested by Siddiqui et. al. (2022), but a potential research path within the area of linguistics, and potentially relating to cognitive science (Alvarez 2018, 2019).

Further, the (potential) relation between prayer and language is a very old research topic. As mentioned in the introduction, Rene Descartes worked on prayer and meditation (Rubidge, 1990) and then Chomsky took Descartes's model of thought to construct his own theory of language (Chomsky, 2009).

Furthermore, as mentioned in my book "Grammar and beyond: the mysterious dynamics of Covid-19", an e-mail question asking Noam Chomsky on his view on a likely research relation between prayer and language, was answered by having "nothing useful to say on the matter" (Alvarez, 2020; Noam Chomsky, personal communication, April 30, 2016).

In any case, prayer after all deserves a special focus, mainly for its easily distinguishable nature and its intuitively iden-

tifiable relation with language.

3.2 The real nature of prayer/"prayer" duality

So far the (real) nature of prayer/"prayer" duality has been explained in terms of metaphysics, cognition, and language (Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020). All these angles/perspectives of exploration work together for a deep understanding of this duality.

Although the methods used in the articles developed so far to reach certain conclusions, have been speculative in nature, they are insightful enough to have a value on their own. Besides, they fall within the category of scientific method without possible questioning on the matter.

3.3 Connection to Covid-19

Although the methods used in my 2020 article *An alternative approach to covid-19: the potential language of SARS-CoV-2* to reach certain conclusions, have a speculative component, there is no reason to believe it is a vain process of creating hypotheses, or that we actually "need rationalism" (only), in the research of Covid-19, as stated by Siddiqui et. al (2022). My question is whether someone can say "we (all) need..." in terms of research. If that were the case, which is not, my next question is whether that "universal need" statement can be specified. The readers can have their own conclusions on that point.

My next question is whether we actually need rationalism (only) at this stage of research. My answer to it is again "No". Why? Just by looking at this very line of research (Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020), it is obvious such a level of insight and depth could not have been accomplished with "rationalist" views only. I could go through that topic further but I think it is material for a publication on its own.

Now, what is the connection between the concept of prayer and Covid-19? (Alvarez, 2020). Despite the forementioned situation in Pakistan concerning the practice of the connection between prayer and Covid (Siddiqui, et. al. 2022), if I understood correctly, I have to say it is not my theoretical concern, although it may be as a human being. After all, prayer/"prayer" duality is very likely to underlie an empathy factor, suggesting a special connection between and among human beings (Alvarez, 2018). As the author of this line, I deeply think it is a point with a value on its own.

Maybe the connection between prayer and Covid-19 is more than what has been stated. Maybe the very virus is crying for its own extinction, and we only need to find the right connection. But it is something that only time will tell, hopefully as a happy ending.

4 CONCLUSION

In this article we have gone through the idea of prayer/"prayer" duality and its relation to covid. Some questionings about the model have been clarified as well, together to some additions that may perfectly work for future research.

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