



## FAMILY DISCOURSE AND ITS IMPACT ON PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18920523>

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**Abstract:** *This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the importance of family discourse in human life. Family discourse, namely communication among family members, has a significant influence on an individual's personal and social development. The article examines in detail how family communication affects a person's psychological state, mental well-being, and overall quality of life. The family is the most important social environment in human life, and one of its main functions is to prepare individuals for life situations and instill appropriate values. The article also highlights the role of family discourse not only in individual development but also in maintaining social stability. Family communication ensures the continuity of social relations and values within society. Properly directed family discourse plays an essential role in helping individuals find their place in society and live a happy life.*

**Keywords:** *family discourse, communication, personal development, values, sociological, psychoanalytic, kinship, interpersonal relations.*

### INTRODUCTION

The concept of “family” is discussed from legal, political, sociological, and psychoanalytic perspectives. Each of these fields attaches great importance to the concept of family. For example, legal definitions often emphasize inheritance rights based on kinship, while political rhetoric frequently portrays the family as a fundamental element of a strong society. In addition, psychoanalytic views often associate family relationships with unconscious psychological frameworks. In everyday life, the idea of kinship is often taken for granted due to the many

interpretations and dynamics of family relationships. However, the ordinary and everyday nature of living with relatives and close people may have deeper social significance at an existential level.

There exists a kinship system formed through three types of family relations: kinship, property relations, and generational relations. This system exists only in human consciousness and is not determined by nature. The family has a structure similar to that of language and culture.

The importance of family relationships in human life was first described by Sigmund Freud, who paid



special attention to the images of mother, father, brothers, and sisters and their role in shaping an individual's character.

What justifies the use of the term “family” to describe several ways of establishing and maintaining family ties across different times and cultures? At present, there is no clear understanding of the transformations in family structures and their anthropological significance. First of all, the family serves as a source of communication. It emphasizes the uniqueness, individuality, and differences between one family and another. It encompasses almost all forms of interpersonal interaction, such as greetings, farewells, forms of address, discussion of important issues, planning, and the distribution of household space among family members.

In some families, parents or grandparents may address each other as “grandmother,” “grandfather,” “father,” or “mother.” Addressing people by their first names may reduce generational differences in some families, while in others it may reinforce them, thereby depriving younger family members of the opportunity to participate in decisions that concern the whole family.

Family discourse is distinguished primarily by its structure, which includes individuals’ speech styles, their intonation, and the specific audience they address.

The integration of perception and consciousness leads to the emergence of a unique unity known as the “self” or subjectivity. This unity does not arise

independently but develops as a result of social interactions that shape a person’s individuality in the world.

Family communication plays a fundamental role in shaping personality because relatives share not only everyday events but also emotional connections. Family stories go beyond simple narratives; they include the ways individuals speak, their audiences, and the traditions of cultural storytelling.

Oral stories differ from written ones because they are closely connected with present life conditions. This dependence on immediate circumstances reflects a form of cultural communication that is not widely disseminated.

As a distinct social unit, the family functions without written laws regulating interactions among its members. Instead, dynamic verbal agreements within the family are established, sometimes with explicit or implicit rules. The absence of rigid norms fixed in written legal codes requires constant discussion and conversation to confirm or reconsider the traditions and boundaries that govern each family.

Unlike online relationships, where past interactions can be revisited and carefully analyzed, family conflicts and conversations are governed by unwritten rules and may continue throughout a lifetime.

Communication in the family environment is based on unspoken rules that encourage people to constantly contribute to a shared discourse.



Evening gatherings often involve retelling family stories and events, creating a familiar environment in each family through language games and a unique speech culture. Understanding these features requires not only attentive listening but also emotional sensitivity to recognize the speaker's intentions and intonation.

Family discourse presents challenges for ethnographers because of its complexity and the tendency to repeat stories that may appear ordinary to outsiders. However, this tendency to repetition also points to important aspects that make family discourse worthy of study.

Communication within the family forms a self-sustaining and comprehensive system, creating a closed cycle of family discourse. The repetition of narratives within this system is associated with its unique limitations and isolation. The intimacy of family discourse is connected with the limited number of typical stories and speech patterns that exist within the family. Despite limited vocabulary and historical scope, a rich symbolic and imaginative space is created within the family.

Similarity among relatives is also based on family speech patterns. They tend to express their feelings in similar ways, which over time may reduce sensitivity toward one another while at

the same time producing remarkable effects. The similarity of male and female voices among family members is often striking.

The cycle of family communication is maintained through the inclusion of new members into the family unit. As a child learns to communicate, he or she takes on a specific speech role within the family structure and determines their place among relatives. Through discourse, the child identifies themselves in relation to the person they are addressing, determining that person's gender and age. In families consisting of several generations, family dynamics become a complex interaction of identification processes.

## CONCLUSION

Joining the family circle means entering the sphere of family discourse, which supports family unity by integrating familiar communication patterns across generations. Within family communication, there is little space for an entirely independent subject; being part of a family means demonstrating connection by accepting and reproducing established narratives and ways of positioning oneself in conversations. Through specific communicative practices, families create and maintain their unity and collective identity while simultaneously serving as a space for the development of subjectivity.



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