

Forms of Dialogical Dysfunction: Summary Table

Dialogical dysfunction	Within-session marker	Exemplar client statement
Tyrannical or monolithic dialogues	Internal dialogues which are dominated by single <i>I</i> -positions, e.g. persistent self-criticism or worry.	<i>“People say I don’t recognise my successes at work, and it’s true. I constantly put myself down”.</i>
Uniform dialogues	Movement between a minimal number of stereotyped <i>I</i> -positions.	<i>“My approach to work is boom-or-bust. I either postpone projects until the last minute or spend too long sweating the details”.</i>
Barren dialogues	An absence of <i>I</i> -positions in the dialogical mind.	<i>“I don’t feel anything when I think about retiring. It just a deep emptiness inside of me”.</i>
Conflictual dialogues	Persistent conflict between polarised <i>I</i> -positions.	<i>“A part of me is excited about the opportunity to change careers, but another part of me wants to stay in my current role”.</i>
Disorganised or cacophonous dialogues	Internal dialogues which are confused, unclear, or perplexing, e.g. ‘mixed feelings’ about events.	<i>“When I think about being promoted, it brings up all kinds of emotions in me. I don’t know what to feel about it”.</i>

Dissociated dialogues	Avoidance, denial, or disownment of I-positions.	<i>“Perhaps I ought to be annoyed about my manager’s behaviour, but I just don’t allow myself to get angry about it”.</i>
Silent stories	I-positions which are unvoiced or unexpressed.	<i>“Being the CEO means being strong for the company. No-one really knows how overwhelmed I feel at times”.</i>
Disrupted dialogues	Unresolved internal dialogues, e.g. grief, resentment, and unexpressed hurts.	<i>“I can’t get over the way I was dismissed from my last job. I go over and over my redundancy meeting in my mind”.</i>

Further Reading:

Pugh, M. & Broome, N. (2020). Dialogical coaching: An experiential approach to personal and professional development. *Consulting Psychology Journal*, xx, xx-xx.

Citation:

Pugh, M. & Bell, T. (2020). Forms of dialogical dysfunction: Facilitation guidance. Retrieved from www.chairwork.co.uk.

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