ABSTRACT

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Masters’ Thesis “To be seen, heard and encountered” – Good care of a young person
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The main aim of this study is to describe the caring reality of a young person suffering from rheumatism from a caring scientific perspective. This study also aims to discuss the connection of “the good”, the “virtues” and the “values” in good caring, from the perspective of the young person. The intention of the study is to get a new understanding for what good caring is according to the young and to create a theoretical model over good care of a young person. In order to reach the aims of this study, the following research questions have been defined: What is good care of a young person suffering from rheumatism? What kind of care do the young persons that are suffering from rheumatism wish for?

The scientific theoretical thinking and methodological approach are based on Gadamers philosophical hermeneutic, the central concepts of which are preunderstanding, horizon, understanding, interpretation, the hermeneutical circle and application. The theoretical perspective is established in the “caring-science”-tradition. This study contains a literature review and two empirical enquiries, questionnaire survey and theme interviews. The empirical studies are aimed at young persons in the age of 16-26 years. The results of the enquiries are reflected to the caritative caring theory and to the theories of Frankl, Freire and Lévinas.

As result of the research six theses and a theoretical model over good caring for young persons were formed. Thesis number one discusses the importance of virtues and values in caring. Thesis two to four discusses the inner and outer dimensions of a young person and thesis five and six discusses the genuine dialogue and genuine encounter between the young person and the nurse. The genuine dialogue means seeing and hearing where both parties learn something new about life. With the help of the genuine dialogue the young person and the nurse can change the world by relieving the suffering of the young person and to favour the young person’s health and life. The genuine encounter requires wisdom, humbleness, courage and responsibility and loving spirit from the nurse. With the help of the genuine encounter the young person learns trust, commitment and responsibility to be able to reach freedom and entirety as a human being.

The theoretical model gives a new understanding for the encounter with young people. It serves the nurse who meets with the suffering human being in her practical work. This model gives the nurse a theoretical background and support when she strives toward the truth, the goodness and the beauty in caring.