Abstract

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The main aim of the research is to, from a caring perspective, lighten up the meaning of reconciliation in relation to the human health and suffering. The perspective is based on caring science standpoints related to health and suffering. Main standpoints for the research are that health is more than absence of illness, that health meaning is wholeness and holiness, that suffering is an inseparable part of life and that suffering and health are each other’s prerequisites. The choice of perspective is also based on the clinical caring science thoughts of base research that has its main task to form ideals for caring. Base research in clinical caring science aim in the first instance to the development of knowledge around health, suffering, caring and understanding of these phenomena in clinical settings. The overarching research questions are: What is the meaning of reconciliation? Which is followed by: What is reconciliation related to health and suffering? The thesis is built around four sub-studies that all have differences in relation to material and methods. The overall methodological approach has its standpoint in hermeneutics inspired by Paul Ricoeur. The first sub-study is a meta-synthesis of current research that touches on reconciliation. While the second sub-study is a concept analysis of Swedish dictionaries. The third sub-study consists of fiction texts that lighten the meaning of reconciliation. The process of interpretation in the third sub-study has followed the direction of phenomenological hermeneutics. Fourth sub-study is empiric and focus narratives about reconciliation. These reconciliation narratives, told by eight women with experience of grief, has been interpreted with a hermeneutic narrative approach. Finally a frozen picture is created from the understanding in front of the text when the different sub-studies of the thesis have met dialectically with the theoretical assumptions. The picture involves a clarification of the meaning of reconciliation in relation to the human health and suffering. In the picture two forms of meaning appears; The outer forms of the meaning of reconciliation illustrating its shape and position in relation to health and suffering. Reconciliation has a progressive form that means a changeover from an experience of parents to an experience of wholeness but also a whole creating process between past, present and builds a link to the future. The inner forms of the meaning of reconciliation elucidate the inner relation to health and suffering. The meaning of reconciliation can be seen as a merge who shelter contrasts that earlier has been separated and impossible to reconcile in human as a heterogenic synthesis.

Keywords: reconciliation, health, suffering, narratives, hermeneutic, caring science