

Non-Local Correlations in Therapeutic Settings? A Qualitative Study on the Basis of Weak Quantum Theory and the Model of Pragmatic Information

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Abstract Weak Quantum Theory (WQT) and the Model of Pragmatic Information (MPI) are two psychophysical concepts developed on the basis of quantum physics. The present study contributes to their empirical examination. The issue of the study is whether WQT and MPI can not only explain ‘psi’-phenomena theoretically but also prove to be consistent with the empirical phenomenology of extrasensory perception (ESP). From the main statements of both models, 33 deductions for psychic readings are derived. Psychic readings are defined as settings, in which psychics support or counsel clients by using information not mediated through the five senses. A qualitative approach is chosen to explore how the psychics experience extrasensory perceptions. Eight psychics are interviewed with a half-structured method. The reports are examined regarding deductive and inductive aspects, using a multi-level structured content analysis. The vast majority of deductions is clearly confirmed by the reports. Even though the study has to be seen as an explorative attempt with many aspects to be specified, WQT and MPI prove to be coherent and helpful concepts to explain ESP in psychic readings.

Keywords Extrasensory perception · Model of pragmatic information · Psi · Psychic readings · Weak quantum theory

1 Introduction and Problem

Weak Quantum Theory (WQT) and the Model of Pragmatic Information (MPI) are two system-theoretical frameworks developed along the lines of quantum theory, but designed for application in macroscopic systems, considering especially those comprising mental components. Although they are much discussed, there is little

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empirical evidence. The transfer of principles originally relating to the quantum level into the macro-world must thus be seen as an explorative attempt. This study investigates whether WQT and MPI can not only explain ‘psi’-phenomena theoretically but prove to be plausible and useful when compared with the concrete empirical phenomenology.

The issue of the study is whether WQT and MPI can consistently explain the experiences of psychic people or, inversely, whether the empirical reality of these psychics supports the statements of the models. Psychics are here defined as people who perceive information not gained through the recognized five sense organs. In the traditional terms of parapsychology these perceptions would be described as clairvoyance, telepathy or precognition. In order to explore how psychics experience ‘extrasensory’ perception (ESP) of information, they are inquired about ‘readings’ with clients. In these reading-sessions, they use ESP to advice or counsel clients on specific issues and processes.

2 Structure of the Survey and Methodical Approach

Even if WQT and MPI differ regarding content and structure, they have a common base and complement each other. The statements from both models constitute the basis of this study. In a first step, 27 main statements from both models (based amongst others on Lucadou 1995; Atmanspacher et al. 2002; Walach 2003; Lucadou et al. 2007) are extracted and structured in seven categories.

In a second step, 33 deductions for ESP in psychic readings are derived from the 27 model statements. These deductions are not developed strictly ‘one to one’ (every statement having an equivalent) but rather based on plausibility. There is no claim that the deductions concretised are the only possible and coherent ones. Table 1 at the end of the article shows an overview of the used statements and the deductions in short paraphrases.

The third step is about the methodological approach. Since for the exploration of paranormal phenomena experimental and proof-oriented methods consistently turned out to be unfavourable and limited in their explanatory power (see e.g., Radin 2006; Lucadou et al. 2007), a qualitative approach is chosen. Based on the 33 deductions for psychic readings an interview guide with main- and sub-questions is designed according to the problem-centred interview (PCI) from Witzel (2000). The PCI is a half-structured hermeneutic interview method which allows the interviewees to shape the proceeding and yet enables the interviewer to pose the main questions. It provides degrees of freedom and includes qualia and thus meets demands for further and adequate parapsychological research. The analysis of the interviews is carried out in a multi-level structured content analysis according to Mayring (2008), in which the interview material is analyzed regarding both, the deductive aspects of the transferred statements and subjects showing inductively from the reports. The criteria for the selection of the interviewees were first, that, according to their own declaration, they perceive information not mediated by the known five senses and second, that they use the information in their work with clients. Eight interviewees were chosen successively from a pool of potential

Table 1 Overview of statements and deductions abbreviated in paraphrases

Main statements WQT and MPI	Deductions derived for readings
<i>1st Category: statements concerning system and subsystems</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WQT 1 WQT is applicable for all types of systems • WQT 5 Global observables represent whole system, local observables parts of it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 1.1 Psychics perceive common and own system • D 1.2 Oscillation between awareness of local and global system
<i>2nd Category: statements concerning organizational closure and entanglement</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WQT 7 Non-commutative observables = complementary • WQT 8 Entanglement occurs with complementary local and global observables • MPI 1 Psi-effects = expressions of correlations within a system • MPI 2 ‘Psi-correlations’ = analogies to macroscopic EPR-correlations • MPI 3 For these psi-correlations organizational closure is required • MPI 3.1 Motivation sustains and strengthens org. closure • MPI 3.2 Feedback sustains and strengthens org. closure • WQT-add. 11 Psi considered distance-independent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 2.1 Psychics possess consciousness’ flexibility • D 2.2 Psychics tune into the clients’ system • D 2.3 Psychics describe equivalent to superposition state • D 2.4 Shared intention of psychics and clients promotes ESP • D 2.5 Readings are possible without the other person knowing • D 2.6 Feedback intensifies ESP and reading process • D 2.7 Physical proximity to client is not necessary
<i>3rd Category: statements concerning system states and measurements</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WQT 2 A system can reside in different states • WQT 3 In each state a range of potential measurements is possible • WQT 4 Each measured observable = one possible realization out of its spectrum in the particular system state • MPI 4 Measurements on org. closed systems lead to exchange of PI • WQT 6 Measurements in different orders give different results (s. MPI 6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 3.1 Common and individual system can reside in different states • D 3.2 Information arising corresponds to result/response • D 3.3 Intention of attendees plays a role • D 3.4 Each measurement alters a system (s. D 4.4)
<i>4th Category: statements concerning pragmatic information (PI) and psi</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPI 5 PI is meaningful information for a system • MPI 7 PI generated in closed system = basis for non-local correlations • WQT 9 Measurements in entangled systems show entanglement correlations between measurement results from local observables • MPI 6 Exchanged PI causes effects in systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 4.1 Semantic level of information is important • D 4.2 Information could be symbolic • D 4.3 Information does not make sense for the psychics • D 4.4 Communicated perceived information causes effect in client’s system

Table 1 continued

Main statements WQT and MPI	Deductions derived for readings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPI 8.1 Structural variance enables confirmation • MPI 8.2 Functional variance enables incorporation of novelty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 4.5 More perception channels enable more understanding • D 4.6 Experiences with sensitive skills and readings are important
<i>5th Category: statements concerning freedom and openness</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPI 9.1 Openness facilitates and enhances psi • MPI 9.2 Restrictions reduce probability for psi <p>(see above MPI 9.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPI 9.3 Meditation can enhance openness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 5.1 Openness and impartiality on the psychics' part are conducive • D 5.2 Openness and readiness on the clients' part are conducive • D 5.3 Limited openness on the psychics' part restrains ESP and process • D 5.4 Limited openness on the clients' part restrains ESP and process • D 5.5 Information needs degrees of freedom • D 5.6 Meditation is ESP-conductive • D 5.7 Psychics are in meditative state during ESP-perception • D 5.8 Psychics practise meditation themselves
<i>6th Category: statements concerning signal independence and non transmission (NT)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WQT 10 Entanglement correlations can not be used for transmitting signals • MPI 10 Non-local correlations can not be used for signal transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 6.1 No sending and receiving—'it's simply happening' • D 6.2 Perceived information can not be predicted or influenced • D 6.3 An influence on the perceiving channel might be possible
<i>7th Category: statements concerning the time aspect</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WQT-add. 12 Two different forms of time • MPI 11 Space–time independence of psi is limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 7.1 Psychics reside in timeless state during ESP-perception • D 7.2 Information can be related to past, present or future • D 7.3 Predictions concerning future are possible within limitations

participants. The choice was based on a balanced ratio of gender and a widest possible range of approaches and ESP-channels.

3 Outline of the Study

In the following, the study is presented in extracts. An overview of parts of the statements (e.g., **WQT 1**; **MPI 3**), deductions (e.g., *D 1.1*; *D 5.3*) and some of the main findings is given in order of the categories. Prior to the outline, two aspects should be kept in mind: First, that WQT and MPI partly overlap regarding contents

and also several of the derived deductions are not separated sharply. Second, due to the free interview structure, all interviewees might have similar experiences concerning particular subjects, while only some of them would mention them in the interviews.

3.1 First Category: Statements Concerning Systems and Subsystems

WQT is presumed to be generally applicable to study and describe all possible types of systems (**WQT 1**). This is confirmed by the fact that considering a reading setting out of the perspective of WQT is possible. Another statement is that global observables represent entire systems which include local sub-systems (**WQT 5**). The deduction for readings is that psychics and clients constitute a common global system which includes them both as local subsystems (*D 1.1*). Based on the interview material, the global system in readings can be defined as a manifested state of openness and connectedness which all psychics describe. Regarding the capaciousness of these systems, the reports vary: while in some depictions they comprise merely sensitive and client, in other reports a third (divine) level or the whole universe is included. Within these capacious states, local observables can be considered as limiting and restricting factors to the openness and expansiveness. As such the interviewees note particularly the (rational) mind, everything they or the clients have not ‘clarified’ and integrated for themselves and everything which is feeling tight or is held back or unconscious. Both, states of openness and restricting factors, will be described more detailed in the third and fifth category. According to the findings of Kleinberens (2007), an oscillation between the awareness of global and local system is assumed (*D 1.2*). With one exception, the interviewees describe not only ‘common’ and ‘own’ systems, but also states of consciousness in which they experience themselves parallel or alternating or in between which they describe themselves as “sojourning-on-the-border”. More than half of the psychics report internal spaces or states where the boundaries between themselves and the client “become blurred”.

3.2 Second Category: Statements Concerning Organizational Closure and Entanglement

According to WQT, entanglement occurs in systems with non-commuting and thus complementary local and global observables (**WQT 7**, **WQT 8**). Psi-effects are seen as manifestations of such entangled systems—as macroscopic entanglement correlations. The requirements postulated by WQT for entanglement and in this case for ESP are fulfilled: As there is no common system without psychic and client constituting it as local sub-systems and as there are no restricting factors without expansive openness and vice versa, the system components in readings can be seen as complementary. The MPI also considers psi-effects as correlations within a system (**MPI 1**) and specifies them explicitly as analogies to macroscopic EPR-correlations (**MPI 2**). Thereby the model states that the occurrence of these correlations can be expected only when a system is organizationally closed as defined by Maturana and Varela (1987) (**MPI 3**). How are organizational closure

and entanglement established? Here, for the psychics a high degree of flexibility in consciousness is predicted (*D 2.1*). This should enable them on the one hand to tune into the client's system by focusing and thus establishing entanglement as well as an organizational closure of the system (*D 2.2*). On the other hand it is predicted that, although focused, they have the ability to reside in open, acategorical states of consciousness (Atmanspacher and Fach 2005). These can be seen as corresponding with the state of superposition (*D 2.3*). The reports of all psychics document clearly their ability to influence their states and to reside in expanded and altered states of open consciousness (see *D 3.1*). Also the presumed focusing is clearly sustained. The majority of the interviewees report that they tune into the frequency of the client or a 'target object'. It is clear from all interviews that, as soon as contact is established, the 'psi'-information is perceivable for the psychics or "flow by themselves". This is independent of target object and the particular way of contacting it. In this regard it does not matter whether the psychics contact living persons, dead persons, animals, soul shares, objects, events, photos or 'addresses of the spiritual world', whether they go in contact via "antennas on the head", over the navel, in the context of shamanic journeys or through spirit guides, whether they go in lighter or deeper trance states, establish contact for specific purposes by internal focusing or whether they "don't do anything" and experience contact widely expanded in space and time. The experiences of the interviewees can be explained coherently using the model statements: The analogies to EPR-correlations occur in the (macro-)system when it is organizationally closed, or, in the terms of WQT: when the global system resides in a superposition-like state and local measurements are taken.

In the context of organizationally closed systems another statement of MPI is that motivation and internal focus increase the closure (**MPI 3.1**). Also for readings it is presumed that a readiness of both, psychics and clients, intensifies the process (*D 2.4*). Therefore, outside a defined setting, a process of similar intensity would not be expected to be possible, e.g., when tuning into someone's field in public without the person knowing. Nevertheless it can be assumed that the psychics, by means of their consciousness' flexibility, are able to establish an organizational closure which entails non-local correlations even under such conditions (*D 2.5*). That motivation is conducive for the reading process is clearly evident from the interviews. Unanimously all psychics mention willingness and openness on part of the client as beneficial factors for the process. Some even specify this as a condition. However, they do not see high consciousness' flexibility from the client-side as a precondition for their readings, even though they describe it as intensifying the process. Without exception, all interviewees report that they are able to perceive information concerning other persons—or could theoretically—even if the other person does not know. (Half of the respondents emphasize in this context the moral aspect.) The reports can be explained consistently with the statement that through focusing and motivation a system can be closed organizationally. The complete included system information is then distributed non-locally and can be contacted with sufficient consciousness' flexibility.

The statement that feedback strengthens the organizational closure of systems (**MPI 3.2**) leads to the deduction that feedback intensifies ESP and the reading

process (*D 2.6*). This deduction is not confirmed thoroughly. All interviews show clearly that, for the psychics to perceive ESP information, feedback is not relevant. Yet the interviews show that it has an important control function for the reading process: On the basis of feedback (e.g., in words, in the form of a change in the aura or in the form of defense) the psychics can estimate more precisely where the clients are at and thus guide them more softly to the point where perceived meaningful information “want to be integrated” into the client’s system. So ultimately feedback enables an optimized and enhanced processing of pragmatic information. As the MPI assumes pragmatic information as a constituting factor for organizationally closed systems, it can be seen as confirmed that in readings the closure is strengthened by feedback.

The distance independence of entanglement correlations (**WQT-add. 11**, also **MPI 11**) is also transferred to readings (*D 2.7*) and corresponds strongly: All interviewees mention that they do not need physical proximity for readings and that they can perceive over distances. Yet they also say that some kind of contact point is needed, a reference or link regarding the target system or target information, such as a photo or a name. However, it might be added that, due to the conduciveness of direct feedback, half of the respondents clearly prefer a personal contact in readings.

3.3 Third Category: Statements Concerning System States and Measurements

According to WQT, systems generally have the capacity to reside in different states (**WQT 2**). This is also applied to readings, where it is predicted that the states may vary depending on subject, frequency or intensity of entanglement (*D 3.1*). For the psychics it is presumed that, during readings, they leave their self-centred state of everyday consciousness and reside in altered and expanded states of consciousness. These could be meditative or trance states of different depth or acategorical states of wakefulness which are not subject to the restrictions of the rational mind (e.g., Assagioli 1978; Lucadou 1998; Piron 2001; Atmanspacher and Fach 2005). As mentioned, all interviewees describe expansive consciousness states in which “primarily everything is connected”. With one exception, these states are described by all psychics as being on the heart or soul level or as states of pure love. Half of the respondents describe the states as emptiness or nothingness, stress that “it does not matter what you call it”, refer to the spiritual world or bring them in connection with beings of the spiritual world (e.g., spirit guides). Half of the interviewees also refer explicitly on two different states of consciousness in which they perceive ESP information. Partly they even describe them as having different stages. One state is specified as “more normal” or “closer by”, the other as “farther away” and “more trancelike”. Amongst all interviewees, transitions between the different states seem to be more fluid for some and to be separated more clearly for others. Other differences that become evident in some interviews show for example how much freedom the psychics have to choose their state or the depth of their trance or to what extent they consciously notice contents they communicate.

Further statements of WQT are that in each system state a range of possible measurements can be taken (**WQT 3**) and that every measured observable is one of the possible realizations out of the observables’ spectrum in the particular system

state (**WQT 4**). Thereby a measurement of a system corresponds to a question: Somewhat analogous to a spin measurement on a certain axis in quantum theory, inquiries into a client's issue can be made in readings. Here a measurement takes place, when the psychics tune in, for example, to the frequency of a particular topic of a client. Due to the focusing of the client's system or aspects of it, entanglement is assumed to be established. If there are contents within the client's system which are complementary to the openness of the global system, these are supposed to show up as EPR-like correlations in the psychic's system. Information which is then registered deliberately and consciously (for example in form of images) is the result of an internal measurement. The deduction for readings is that information which the psychics perceive corresponds to measurement results (*D 3.2*). Almost all psychics mention that the perceived 'response information' is clearer, the more precise the question is posed. More than half of the interviewees mention, however, that a question does not necessarily have to be formulated concisely at first in order "to come to the point". Rather, all psychics refer to a very reliable and distinct intuited sensed rating system for 'right' answers or 'right' information (for some, this falls away in certain trance states). The majority of the interviewees emphasize both, their perception of information and the communication of it, as very precise and definitely not arbitrary. There are no indications in the reports that the psychics believe that they might possibly be able to perceive other, essentially congruent information than the information they actually perceive.

3.4 Fourth Category: Statements Concerning Pragmatic Information and Psi

According to MPI, pragmatic information is the internal information of organizationally closed systems, entailing non-local correlations (**MPI 5**, **MPI 7**). As mentioned earlier, from the perspective of WQT (**WQT 9**) psi-information is assumed to arise in the course of measurements in entangled systems. The derived deductions here are: Information perceived in readings is meaningful, appears 'just like that' and is ultimately not explainable. There are two aspects leading to the presumption that the information appearing in readings originally emanates from the client's system. The first is that, due to their consciousness' flexibility, the psychics have a wider focus than the clients and thus are able to include meaningful information from the client's system in their open awareness. Secondly the sensitive's focusing and tuning into the client (or a question of the client) corresponds to a request to the client's system. The deduction is that information which the psychics perceive during readings is related to the client's system and is meaningful to it. Thereby the significance of the information is on the semantic level. It arises out of the particular meaning that the information bears for the client (*D 4.1*). This means that the information may potentially be of symbolic character (*D 4.2*) and that, without feedback, the psychics do not necessarily understand the impact of the perceived information (*D 4.3*). The deduction that the information originally emanates from (or 'belongs to') the client's system is clearly confirmed. All respondents express repeatedly and in many ways that the contents they perceive initially make no sense to them and that they communicate them "just like they are". Thereby they refer on highly fact-specific information as well as on

information with symbol character. Even though it is evident that some ESP-channels (like clairvoyance) leave more space for interpretation than others (like clairaudience), all perceived contents are classified by the psychics as very clear. Whether symbolic or not—the statement of pragmatic information as the most meaningful information for a system is clearly supported by the reports of all psychics. Without exception all respondents explicitly state that in each case they perceive the information being “just the most important for the person” or which “at present the person needs most to get ahead”. Almost all interviewees mention in this context that the perceived information often concerns unconscious contents from the client’s system which generate pressure and have a clear influence on his or her life. Further almost all interviewees refer here to a healing-, integration- or evolutionary impulse or presume it to be immanent to the system.

As every measurement is assumed to influence the system (**WQT 6**) and, according to MPI, the entire included system information (**MPI 6**), the deduction for readings is that the information perceived by the psychics have effects on the client’s system when they are communicated to them (*D 4.4*). If it is true that the perceived contents originally emanate from the client’s system and are meaningful to it, the effects caused by the information are expected to be distinctly greater on the client-side, even if also the psychics’ systems will alter while processing the information. Both deductions are found to be valid. All psychics report that “something happens” on the client-side when the perceived contents are communicated, e.g., that it is sometimes “as if a switch is flicked”, that the client remembers something long forgotten or repressed, reacts with defense or relaxes spontaneously. In half of the interviews, there are indications that effects in the client’s system are not only caused when perceived information is transferred verbally, but also when the information is kept in the awareness of the psychics or is felt deeply or treated internally by them. Thus it is confirmed that information which is originally stored in the client’s system is transformed in contact, respectively in entanglement or measurement with the wider or more expansive states of consciousness of the psychics.

The statement that systems of broader structural freedom can incorporate more confirming information (**MPI 8.1**) is examined in terms of readings with the deduction that psychics who are able to perceive information on different sensory channels, thus who ‘speak several languages’, are also able to ‘understand more’ (*D 4.5*). As some of the respondents ascribe different qualities to different channels of perception, it can be concluded that psychics who perceive on more ESP-channels can actually discern psi-information more nuanced. Yet ultimately the interviewees stress that, for the essence of information “it makes no difference on which channel it is perceived”. Since in readings not only the perception of information is relevant but also the further processing and communication of it, it turns out to be reductionistic to examine structural freedom merely in terms of the number of ESP-channels. Rather the statement concerning functional freedom (**MPI 8.2**) (which is conditioned by structural freedom) seems here to make more sense. Applied to readings functional freedom can be seen as the extent of virtuosity that the psychics have to deal with completely new information (*D 4.6*). Important aspects in this regard could possibly be the sensitive’s range of experiences, their ‘handling’ of

perceptions or their capability to communicate perceived contents in a most clear and appropriate way. Almost all aspects previously mentioned are brought up in most of the interviews. It is particularly evident that all respondents describe themselves as being in a constant development which spreads throughout their life, which is felt in changing-processes or which is only comprehensible when certain phases of development are completed. More than half of the interviewees mention, besides the “learning from life in general”, the aspects of “self-purification”, of “refining own methods” (e.g., alone, in a group or with a teacher) and a deeper empathized sharing of the perceived information. For most of the psychics, at the time of the interview, the main perception channels are currently in a flux or they have essentially changed over the years (for some due to internal focus and for others ‘by itself’).

3.5 Fifth Category: Statements Concerning Degrees of Freedom and Openness

In quantum physics, non-local correlations show up between observables, which are free in all degrees of freedom and thus completely unpredictable. In analogy to this the MPI identifies enhanced system-openness as a psi-conductive factor (MPI 9.1). For readings it is thus deducted that (besides motivation and focusing) greater openness and impartiality are important conducive factors for psi—on the part of the psychics (*D 5.1*) as well as on the part of the clients (*D 5.2*). Without exception, the interviewees note their own openness as an important prerequisite for readings. The extent of possible openness or emptiness is seen by all respondents as conditioned by the extent of completed “self-purification”, thus the awareness and integration e.g., of own neurotic structures or forms of defense. Equally all psychics refer to openness and readiness or willingness as most beneficial conditions on the client’s part. More than half of the psychics add the factors of trust and relaxation to these aspects.

As openness is supposed to be conducive, in reverse it is predicted that any restrictions reduce entanglement and thus the probability for psi (MPI 9.2). On the part of the psychics (*D 5.3*) prior knowledge, expectations, strong attraction, antipathy or defense mechanisms could be adopted as possible restricting factors. That all matters which the psychics have not clarified for themselves have an impact on the reading process and derogate its purity and quality, is clear from all interviews. The psychics report of different experiences concerning previous knowledge, sympathy and antipathy. But they all describe their thinking mind as a hindrance, as restricting their openness and as a distorting factor which veils the pure perception of information and taints its communication. Especially own expectations (which may affect both, information or the reading process) are mentioned as impeding or eliminating by the majority of the psychics. On the part of the clients (*D 5.4*) the deduction of fear, doubt or defense as obstructive factors is clearly confirmed. Three quarters of the interviewees note the client’s thinking mind as obstructive factor, mentioning e.g., that “it is difficult when someone is very much in the head”. All psychics mention resistance on the client-side as a hindrance and say that they can not perceive information, if a person does not want this or “blocks”. This could be explained coherently from the perspectives of both models: When a person ‘blocks’, the degree of openness which is necessary to constitute the global system may not be

provided or it may not be possible for the psychics to establish an organizationally closed system in which then pragmatic information would arise.

Since, according to WQT and MPI, psi-phenomena tend to disappear when they are hindered in their free evolvment, information itself can be expected to need degrees of freedom (*D 5.5*). These can be provided in a setting without strictly determined fixed coding for the information. Further, the information may maintain its freedom by showing up partly as symbolic and partly as fact-specific (Lucadou 1997). So, without feedback or further information, the psychics will not know what contents are fact-specific and which have symbolic character. Especially compared to pre-structured settings of information acquisition and -processing, it is clear from the interviews that readings provide a structure that guarantees a high level of degrees of freedom for the information on its way from the first pure appearance in the open awareness of the psychics to the inclusion in the client's system. Degrees of freedom arise for several reasons, e.g.: the psychics initially do not know the meaning of the perceived information, the meaning is ascribed by the clients, the information may be fact-specific or symbolic and the communication of the information is, more or less, subject to a personal colouring through the psychics.

Since it can be learned through meditation to stay in an open, acategorical state of consciousness (**MPI 9.3**), a connection between meditation and increased sensitivity is predicted. The derived deduction for readings, that meditation is generally classified by the psychics as ESP-conducive factor (*D 5.6*), is clearly confirmed from the reports. Except one interview, in which meditation is not brought up, all respondents see a link between meditation and ESP. Although several of them are very critical to meditation techniques linked closely to the rational mind (which they classify as too narrow), generally meditation is described clearly and predominantly as conducive for and associated with ESP. Also the deductions about the psychics being in a meditative state during readings (*D 5.7*) and them practising meditation (*D 5.8*) are significantly supported by the reports.

3.6 Sixth Category: Statements Concerning Signal Independence and Non Transmission (NT)

Both models state that correlations based on entanglement can not be used for signal transmission or any controllable causal influence (**WQT 10, MPI 10**). The postulated NT-axiom would mean for readings that there is neither a sending nor a receiving person and no information which is somehow 'sent'. The deduction that the information 'is not sent' but arises in the sensitive's awareness during readings (*D 6.1*) correlates strongly with the specifications of the interviewees. Hardly any of the psychics use the terms 'sending' or 'receiving' for the description of their experiences. Rather, they speak about relevant contents "simply showing up" when they are in contact with a client or a 'target system'. With one exception, they all describe a kind of information pool in which "all information is always there". Further deductions are that neither content nor the way in which the information appears can be influenced (*D 6.2*). Nevertheless, and even if it is not clear whether this restriction leaves sufficient degrees of freedom, an influence on the perception channel might be possible (*D 6.3*). All interviewees emphasize that, besides opening

and focusing, they have no control regarding the perceived information and the process of perception. This also seems to apply mostly for the perception channel, even though there are some contradictory comments. The psychics point out, that it is not ‘them’ who “do” it, but rather that they surrender in trust and humility to a process or an “other power” which guides them. Most of them say that if they do not surrender and if own expectations interfere with the process or if they try to “use” their sensitivity “as a tool”, then “it does not work at all” or they are “immediately off”. The volatility and elusiveness of these phenomena can be coherently explained with the NT-axiom of both models used.

3.7 Seventh Category: Statements Concerning the Time Aspect

Originally in WQT there is no notion of time. Yet considering Römer (2004) and simplified and summarized, it could be stated that both models consider two types of time: linear ‘clock time’ and ‘timeless’ time without direction, with both forms of time passing gradually into each other through interaction and entanglement (**WQT-add. 12, MPI 11**). For the psychics it is predicted, that they are not only able to close systems independent of distance, but also to orient themselves flexibly in or between both forms of time. This leads to the deductions that they reside in a timeless state while perceiving the information (*D 7.1*), that the information (if originally perceived in a state and space not bound in time) may emanate from or be related to present, past or future (*D 7.2*) and that predictions concerning future events are possible within limitations (*D 7.3*). Partly even in the same wording, all psychics describe states, rooms or level where “there is no time” or they emphasize that “where the information is, time does not exist”. The experience of all interviewees is, that the perceived information may concern past, present or future. One respondent excluded, they consider predictions regarding future events as possible while pointing out their relative character. Hence the statements related to time are clearly confirmed from the reports of the interviewees and, vice versa, can consistently explain the psychics’ experiences.

3.8 Inductive Categories

The categories arising inductively from the interview material are the following:

1. Rational mind: Beside other aspects, all interviewees comment extensively and in many ways on the rational or thinking mind. Almost unanimously the own as well as the client’s rational mind are described as doubtful, commenting, disturbing, distorting and hindering during readings.
2. Intuitive approach, no reflected model: Most respondents seem to use their psychic abilities intuitively. At least for certain aspects of their skills, they do not have a consciously reflected internal model.
3. Translation into words is difficult: Almost all respondents stumble again and again while searching for adequate descriptions of their experiences. All of them use images or metaphors to translate and illustrate their experiences.
4. Reincarnation: More than half of the interviewees refer repeatedly, explicitly and extensively to reincarnation.
5. ‘Learnability’: Half of the interviewees point out that basically everybody can develop psychic abilities. They assume that people are fundamentally

sensitive and mention different promotive factors. 6. Non-verbal exchange/communication: Half of the psychics report an exchange or ‘communication’ unattached to words, mostly in connection with a state of openness. 7. Entanglement of expansive level of consciousness: (mentioned here in the fourth category).

4 Conclusion

The present study is a first attempt to explore ESP as an entanglement-like phenomenon with a theory-based qualitative empirical approach. It inquired whether WQT and MPI prove to be consistent with the empirical phenomenology of ESP. The models’ statements regarding requirements for ESP, conducive, restricting and impeding factors, space-time independency and the meaningfulness of contents are clearly supported by the interview data. Almost all of the 33 deductions for readings are confirmed through the descriptions of all or the majority of the interviewees. The analysis of the data therefore supports the hypotheses that ESP phenomena arise due to generalized entanglement and that the two models, each from its own perspective and yet complementing each other, provide coherent and helpful explanations for the experiences the psychics report in the interviews. A deepening and concretising of the subject is necessary and desirable.

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