

MAIN TYPES OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

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Abstract

The proposed scientific theme is going to approach and study the violence phenomenon as a contemporary social matter, from a conceptual and etiological perspective. Firstly, the violence phenomenon is explained from multiple angles: legal, psychological, socio – political, anthropological and last but not least sociological ones. Secondly, I am going to analyze the main violence types encountered in contemporary society; this approach also implies the study of the way each violence type is expressed, and the discovery of the causes that determine the commission of such acts. Thirdly, the main types of violence existing in sport are presented, this phenomenon being frequently encountered in contemporary society, while converting a sport game into a real battle – a situation which is frequent both among athletes and especially supporters.

Keywords: *the concept of violence, types of violence, violence etiology, violence among athletes, violence caused by supporters.*

Introduction

Violence represents a complex social phenomenon encountered more and more often in contemporary society. Representatives of international organization, specialists, governmental and non-governmental institutions and ordinary people, express their concern and opinion regarding the increasing number of violent actions and their varied manifestation, and no less concern about the citizens' insecurity in different social environments. Violence represents an area of large interest, on which most researchers have closely looked upon lately, with a special interest in its causes, manifestations and especially the procedures to prevent and combat.

In Romania nowadays, violence as a form of behavior represents a complex social problem, whose form of manifestations, social consequences and possible solutions are of great interest for institutions representatives responsible for social control as well as the public opinion. It is very important to take into account the fact that social inequalities among people and different social groups, economical crisis, inflation, poverty, unemployment generate social tensions and conflicts.

This paper defines in its first part violence as seen from World Health Organization perspective, with a special view of the definitions given by sociologists and researchers. The violence phenomena are presented not only from legal perspective, psychological aspects, political sociology, but also from cultural anthropology point of view.

The second part of this work, which represents the core of the paper, presents types of violence encountered in contemporary world using the existing classification provided by modern sociologists.

In the third part of the paper, a conceptual approach of the violence phenomena in sport was presented as this is the main subject in my research project. I have studied the type of violence identified with sport violence in contemporary society and I have presented the two types of violence, identified by the researcher Jean –Yves Lassalle: those of the sportsmen and of the supporters as well.

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1. Conceptual perspective on violence

World Health Organization has defined violence considering all possible situations which may be characterized as violent actions. According to this international organization, the violence is the result of “*intentional using or deliberate threatening using physical strength against your own self, against other person or against a group or community, which produces or is on the point of producing a trauma or a death, a moral prejudice a trauma or a deficiency*”¹.

In the Explanatory Dictionary of Romanian Language, 1984 edition, violence is “*the property, character of what is violent (1); power, intensity, strength (2) lack of self control in speaking or in actions, vehemence, anger (3); the fact that brutal force is used, constraint, raping, law infringement (4); violent, impulsive action (5)*”.

Nowadays, the meaning of word ‘*violence*’ has received new aspects in Dictionary of Romanian Language for Students and specifically, “*violence*” represents firstly a “*feature, character of what is violent; big power, intensity, strength*”; secondly “*lack of self control in communication and deed, vehemence, anger*”; thirdly “*the attitude to use brutal force, constrain, violence*”.

The phenomena is generalized and is present in any society, either occidental or ex-communist, but making clear that the increase of violence is definitely higher in all ex-communist countries, compared with the other countries. Even more worrying is the increasing rate, changes presents in the structure of criminality, toward high criminality and especially violence.

Violence is seen as a manifestation where force and constrain is used by an individual, group or social class in order to impose on others. The term “*violence*” gains particular meanings according to context of reference where the meaning is found².

From legal point of view, *violence* defines physical force or personal authority usage in order to produce a prejudice, or an injury upon personal integrity of a person (criminal **violence**, homicide, voluntary hurting, rapes etc).

In **psychology**, *violence* defines aggressive behavior, usually displayed as a result of frustration (from Freud’s point of view “*Oedipal conflict*” the example is accompanied by unconscious desire of a child to kill all those who stay against his maternal affection). Frustration tendencies can be a self-aggressive behavior which defines people presenting suicidal tendencies, suicide representing a type of **violence** so called non-criminal, private which has as a main purpose voluntary suppressing a person’s life.

In **political sociology**, *violence* signifies an important means to establish social dominance or in order to obtain a dominant position, materialized through conquering wars, international terrorism etc.

In **cultural anthropology**, *violence* is the equivalent to the constrain applied by a cultural community on another or by a norm system on other, through repressive agents having economical, political or moral character to act in favor of the dominant model.

Last, but not least, in **sociology**, *violence* is not considered only a resource of a powerful social class or some privileged groups, but also a compensatory means used by social classes and unprivileged groups (especially when their interest are not fulfilled through “*normal*” legal procedures) pushed toward the edges and constituted from people lacking resources, not properly integrated in society or just partly integrated. Their behavior is a reaction to compensate their own diverted status. Without having access to institutionalized methods to fulfill their social purposes they use illegal, illegitimate, and sometimes violent means, in order to obtain access to some ‘*social opportunities*’. R.A. Cloward and L.E. Ohlin, inspired by Merton’s³ paradigm regarding anomy, have introduced the ‘*differentiated opportunity*’ notion represented by the procedures used by social

¹ Etienne G. Krug, Linda L. Dahlberg, James A. Mercy, Anthony Zwi, Raphael Lozano-Ascenio, „*Rapport mondial sur la violence et la sante*”, Organisation Mondiale de la Sante, Geneve, 2002, p.5

² <http://www.dictsociologie.net/firms.com/Termenii.htm>

³ Rădulescu S.M., „*Teorii sociologice în domeniul devianței și al problemelor sociale*”, 1994, p. 59

groups to fulfill their desires. According to these opportunities, legitimate or not, the positions occupied by members of society in the 'opportunity structure' are defined.

Violence is a consequence of disregarding the social disorganized processes, of social anomy and lack of social integration and is manifested by aggressive behavior which bends the law or unwritten codes. Violence is not a new phenomenon, though its presence and evolution are close related to people, groups, organizations, institutions and human societies's evolution. This is one of the reasons some specialists and researchers appreciate that violence is a permanent feature of humanity, close related to human being and to society functions. Defining violence has proven to be a difficult attempt. This can be due to the complexity of the phenomena, and the great variety of its form of manifestation as well.

Violence as a notion is analysed in a close relationship to aggressivity. Aggressivity is defined as any deed which has as a main purpose to produce e prejudice to a certain target. The Latin root of the term violence is 'vis', which means 'power' and induces the idea of power, domination, using physical superiority against someone else.

ERIC DEBARBIEUX (1996), a specialist in the problems related to violence in schools, gives a definition where he surprises violence as a whole: "*violence is the brutal disturbance or continuously of a personal, collective or social system that may be translated through integrity loss, integrity which may be physical, psychical or material. This disorganization can be treated through aggression, using conscious or unconscious force, but we can discuss also about violence from victim's point of view, without aggressor's intention to hurt anyone*"⁴.

YVES CHAUD appreciates that: "*There is violence during an interaction when one or more factors act in a direct or indirect manner, concentrated or distributed, bringing others prejudices of different intensity, affecting either their physical or moral integrity, their possessions, or in their representations either symbolic or cultural*"⁵.

2. Typologies of violence in contemporary society

Violence's forms are becoming more and more diverse during human society evolution and get larger and larger amplitude despite the means and costs involved in fighting against them.

The manifestations of violent deeds are different according to epoch, culture, circumstances, but especially related to moral and spiritual evolution of the communities. Violence is a variable phenomenon. It can take forms from obvious violence to a hidden one. What is called violence has a larger area than those defined by criminology.

The types of violence encountered in contemporary society are the following:

A. Direct structural and cultural violence

The Norwegian researcher, **Johan Galtung** has studied the most subtle forms of the violence and has offered a new perspective on the phenomenon according to social reality of the XXI century.

"I understand the violence as a *deterioration of fundamental human needs which can be avoided*, or more general, a *life impairment* which decreases the degree where people are able to fulfill their needs at a certain level or *potential* possible. Even *threatening* is violence too."⁶

The majority of analyses support the idea that the aggressivity is more related to instinct, while the violence is close related to culture, education and context.

According to the modalities, the violence is presented and in order to understand its whole nature in contemporary society, Galtung has found out that there are three types of violence: **direct**, **structural** and **cultural**.⁷

⁴ Debarbieux, E (1996). La violence en milieu scolaire, voll (Etat des liex), ESF, Paris, p. 45-46;

⁵ Ecaterina Balica, Violent Criminality – Tendencies and Risk Factors, Bucharest, Ed. Oscar Print, 2008, p. 28

⁶ Johan Galtung, *Kulturelle Gewalt*; în: Der Bürger im Staat 43, 2/1993, p. 106, http://articulo.famouswhy.ro/definirea_termenului_de_violenta/#ixzz14mo83MVA

⁷ Ibidem

1. Direct violence is related to physical images: blows, wounds, injuries on the physical body generated by another person directly or indirectly and is related to hurting and injuries intentions.

2. Structural violence is the common one, without intention, where all society members are involved. This type of violence is applied, according to Galtung, to all social and economical exploitation systems which affect basic needs of people, identified in: surviving, wellbeing, identity and freedom needs.

Structural violence is presented in two main forms:

- **Vertical structural violence** – which implies exploitation (economical power) repression (political power) and alienation (cultural power) and which affect basic needs as wellbeing, liberty and identity;

- **Horizontal structural violence** – implies keeping people together despite the fact that they do not want to, or to part them when they want to live together.

Social isolation or pushing people toward social limits, stopping them to have the possibility to access knowledge and culture, manipulating, any other form of action, social structure or ideological conception which narrow the possibility to satisfy basic necessities is called structural violence too. In this respect are noted structural violence phenomena such as⁸:

Poverty – in modern countries structural violence is manifested when government politics worsen the disadvantaged social classes and multiply the privileges for the rich people in society and in this way the gap between poor and rich is enlarged.

Death – when industrialized countries, on their run to obtain profit, deeply affect planetary system and produces major climatic changes with fatal effects on people's lives.

Suffering – people's inability to satisfy their need of recognition or self esteem, due to a society which reduces any possibility to distinguish, generating a great frustration or unfulfilling feeling.

Galtung uses the term structural violence in a way synonym with 'social injustice'. Thus, Galtung's analysis is related to criticism towards the capitalism in the countries still in a development process. It legitimates their fight against unjust social systems (guerilla etc) even though these mostly renounce to direct oppression methods.⁹

3. Cultural violence is that one which considers as good and righteous the other two forms of violence. "Cultural violence is not visible, but has clear intention to hurt, even indirectly kill through words and images, in a way, symbolic. This is priests' violence, intellectuals' or professionals' violence." Cultural violence refers to ideologies, traditions, knowledge, beliefs, all ideological systems which make possible and justify direct or structural violence.¹⁰

"Through cultural violence we understand those culture aspects that could be used in order to justify or legitimate direct or structural violence. Stars and stripes, the hammer and the sickle, crosses, flags, hymns, military parades, the omnipresent portrait of a leader, heated discourses as well, are included in this category."¹¹

"Cultural violence is even more problematic than structural violence because is in all of us, not only in some, so called, bad actors (...)

The structures are seen as something external, but culture is internal, feeding our hearts with religion/ideology, the language of rough culture which forms or identity"¹².

⁸ Sorin- Tudor Maxim, „*Violența în Sport*”, Publisher. All, 2006, p.54

⁹ Johan Galtung, *Kulturelle Gewalt*; în: *Der Bürger im Staat* 43, 2/1993, p. 106, http://articoles.famouswhy.ro/definirea_termenului_de_violența/#ixzz14mo83MVA

¹⁰ Sorin- Tudor Maxim, op.cit, Publisher. All, 2006, p.55

¹¹ Idem

¹² Johan Galtung, „*Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means*”, United Nations, 2000

Considering a turning point Galtung’s definition (people’s basic needs deterioration) and adding four new need groups to the two already mentioned, we will have the following typology:¹³

Typology of violence by Galtung	Needs groups			
	survival (denying: death)	prosperity (denying: poverty, illness)	identity / purpose (denying: alienation)	liberty (denying: oppression)
Direct violence	murders	Injuries, sieges, penalties, poverty	de-socialise, re-socialise, second hand citizens	repression, imprisonment, expulsion, deportation
Structural violence	exploitation A	exploitation B	penetration, segmentary	marginal, fragmentary

We have seen Galtung’s typology of violence, and we have to explain the terms from the last row of the table – what is exploitation (A and B), what is penetration, segmentation, marginalization and fragmentation.

Exploitation represents the core of an archetypal structure of violence. Galtung makes reference to an “unequal exchange” realized between the two social categories, named by the Norwegian researcher: *topdogs* – those that take most advantages from the system and the *underdogs*, the opposites.

Exploitation type A. The so called *underdogs* can be so disadvantaged thus they can even die because of that (due to famine or epidemic diseases).

Exploitation Type B means to leave the *underdogs* to permanently support unwanted poverty, which naturally includes underfeeding and disease.

“All these take place inside some complex structures and at the end of some long and extremely complicated causal cycles. A violent structure leave marks not only on human body, but also on their minds and soul.

The following four terms can be understood as constituent parts of exploitation or as components having an amplifying value inside its structure. Their function is *to hinge conscientious* formation and also its *stimulation*, two essential ingredients for a real fight against exploitation.”¹⁴

Penetration, segmentation, marginalization fragmentation. An *underdog* conscientious is *penetrated* by *topdog*’s ideology elements, this being accompanied by a *segmentation* which does not open to *underdog* anything but a limited vision of reality. Segmentation is just a result of two processes, *marginalization* and *fragmentation*. *Underdogs* are pushed towards edges, being convicted to be unimportant, parting them from one another. These four concepts, actually describe the forms of structural violence.”¹⁵

B. Interpersonal and collective violence

Etienne G. Krug and his team have worked to realize the *World Report on Violence and Health* have included in the area of violence, interpersonal violence deeds, action of violence against own self, but collective violent deeds as well.

Interpersonal violence includes violent activities among people no matter their relationships. Thus, in this category there are presented two subtypes of violence considering the relation between aggressor and his victim and the space where aggression takes place:

1. “*Violence in family and violence among partners* is manifested among people where there are family relationships (maltreatment applied to a child, partners or elderly people);
2. *Violence in community among people without any family connection* – takes place in other spaces than victims or aggressor’s residence, among people knowing each other or not (young

¹³ http://articolofamouswhy.ro/definirea_termenului_de_violenta/#ixzz14mo83MVA

¹⁴ Johan Galtung, *Kulturelle Gewalt*, în: *Der Bürger im Staat* 43, 2/1993, p. 107

¹⁵ *Ibidem*

people violence, rape and sexual aggression committed by unknown persons, or violence in institutions).”¹⁶

Violence against own self (intrapersonal) represents a category where the authors include suicidal and self mutilating behavior. It has been noticed the way how specialists from World Health Organization understand to define suicidal behavior, including not only suicide, but also the “precursor’s activities of the suicidal action (thoughts and actions regarding suicide, identification of the necessary means to prepare the suicide).”¹⁷

Collective violence includes violent manifestations which are identified with a group against another group in order to obtain political, economical or social advantages. In the area of such type of violence there are included violent deeds of an army against another or against population, actions considered genocide, actions which implies fundamental rights of individual infringement, terrorist activity or violent actions included in organized criminality.

The specifications brought by the authors in their report allow understanding that the World Health Organization suggests violence should be approached not only from the aggressor – victim perspective and place where the aggression takes place, but also considering the type of action against the victim. As a result, considering the type of action upon victim, violent deeds can be “physical, sexual, psychological, or can involve deficiency or carelessness.”¹⁸

From this perspective Gilles Ferreol and Adrian Neculau, have established the following typology of violence:¹⁹

1. Private violence
 - a) Criminal violence
 - Deadly - killing, assassinating, poisoning, capital punishment
 - b) Noncriminal violence
 - Suicide and suicide tentative
 - Traffic and work accidents
2. Collective violence
 - a) Citizens’ violence against political power
 - Terrorism;
 - Revolutions and strikes
 - b) Violence against citizens
 - State terrorism
 - Industrial violence
 - c) Paroxysmal violence
 - War

There is another typology of violence, elaborated by Dan Baciú and Sorin M. Radulescu who differentiate between:²⁰

a) Primary violence – usually occasional, accidentally, casual characterized by uncontrolled and outbursting reactions of some people, general reaction promoted by criminal opportunities (alcohol consumption, conflicting relationships with the victim etc);

b) Passion violence – generated by revenge, jealousy, humiliation usually characterizing people manifesting egocentric and autistic feelings, or that prove emotional instability and a clear diminish of voluntary mechanism of self-control and self-adjustment;

¹⁶ Etienne G. Krug, Linda L. Dahlberg, James A. Mercy, Anthony Zwi, Raphael Lozano-Ascenio, „*Rapport mondial sur la violence et la sante*”, Organisation Mondiale de la Sante, Geneve, 2002, p.5, 6

¹⁷ Ibidem

¹⁸ Ibidem

¹⁹ Gilles Ferréol și Adrian Neculau, „*Violenta. Aspecte psihosociale*”, Iasi, Publisher.Polirom, 2003, p.6

²⁰ Dan Baciú, Sorin M. Rădulescu, Vasile Teodorescu, *Criminalitatea în România în perioada de tranziție(Teorii, Tendințe, Prevenire)*, Pitești, Publisher.Lică, 2001,p.262 -263

c) Utility violence – generated by purposes that follow a profit, material interests, goods and services met in thefts accompanied by violence, robbery and mugging;

d) Pseudo legal violence – generated by purposes that follow to repair the damages and to punish the author of a murder, rape or robbery by a group or community that substitute to the legal system (it is the case of vendetta, lynching etc);

e) Symbolic violence – generated by some codes, messages and symbols that act as triggering factors produced by some people against others;

f) Rational violence – characterizing organized crime and criminal activities, having as final purpose to obtain high illegal profit (murder and kidnapping people, people trading, coercion and physical and moral blackmailing, weapons and hallucinogen substances trading etc.).

C. Physical, economical and moral violence

Jean Claude Chesnais, trying to establish semantics areas included in definition, has established a geometrical representation three circles.²¹

As core, the first circle, there is **physical violence**, which is considered by the author the most serious, as it causes body injuries or even death of the attacked person. This is the most savage and brutal form.

The second circle, and larger, is represented by **economic violence**, related to all prejudices and frustrations on personal belongings and having numerous forms. In a high developed industrial society is difficult to make a difference between what you own and what you are, because the person is mostly identified with what belongs to him/her as a means of subsistence. In this way the violence is confused with delinquency.

The third circle is represented by **moral violence**. To talk about violence in this respect, states Chesnais, is a linguistics abuse in nowadays conditions, when ambiguity, regulation and aggression, organization and aggression are mistakenly taken for one another.

D. Physical violence, psychological and verbal violence

The sociologist Daniel Welzer-Lang appreciates that the most important forms of violence manifested in a society are: physical violence, psychological violence, verbal violence, sexual violence, violence against animals, violence against children, economical violence, violence against oneself and street violence.²²

Physical violence is represented by “any physical contact on someone else’s body”. Welzer-Lang includes in the area of this type of violence, actions whose gravity and intensity are different: “pulling someone’s hair, scalding using water or oil, violent gestures having as a main purpose to frighten someone, bouncing someone’s head to walls, tearing someone’s clothes, forcing someone to touch an electric wire, electrocution.”

In area of **psychological violence**, the author includes all actions that affect or try to affect physical or mental integrity of a person, such as “self-appreciation, confidence, and personal identity”. In this category there are included: “verbal abuse, ungrounded critics, browbeating, bullying, threatening with raping or retaliations, blackmailing, blackmailing someone with suicidal action, threatening someone to leave, over controlling someone’s program”.

The previous mentioned actions emphasize the idea that psychological violence is a result of the message conveyed to victim by the aggressor.

Conversely, **verbal violence**, is expressed by verbal flow, violence in the voice, pitch, crisis, in another word is related to “authoritarian tone used in order to ask something, interrupting the interlocutor and reproaching, avoiding some topics to discuss, totally denying, listening or answering to the interlocutor and frequently usage of verbal abuse during discussion.”

E. Sexual violence

²¹ J.C.Chesnais,1981,pag 32 apud Gilles Ferréol Adrian Neculau, pag 122,123;

²² <http://tahin-party.org/textes/impp50-85.pdf>

World Health Organization defines sexual violence as “any sexual action performed by someone against someone’s sexuality, or attempt to have a sexual intercourse, comments or sexual attempts, trading actions or other actions using force, no matter his/her relationships with victim in any context, without being restrained to the place of living or work.”²³

F. Financial violence

Noël Flageul is one of those who supports the idea of violence in financial world, referring to “actions based on force or brutal manifestations which affect people or goods”.²⁴ Considering financial violence, the main reference is “money laundering, tax frauds, stock transactions offences, card frauds, fictive finance-accounting procedures, bribing or illegal funding of political parties”. Thus, violence takes the appearance of the “lack of balance in real economy, taking into account the more and more close connection among states and globalization”.²⁵

G. Criminal violence

Canadian criminologists Jean Proulx, Maurice Cusson and Marc Ouimet include in this type of violence “actions forbidden by law and liable to penal punishment”.²⁶ There are included here murders, sexual aggressions, robberies injuries and corporal aggressions.²⁷

Criminal violence particularities

There is a methodological necessity to make some clarification regarding violent criminality. Jean Proulx, Maurice Cusson have appreciated that it is necessary to distinct between:

1. “*predatory aggression*, justified by the desire to obtain money or goods and *clash violence* justified by revenge or defense desire;

2. *severe violence* (murder and murder tentative) and *less severe/critical violence* (injuries and others); theories that explain delinquency and theories applied to violent criminality only”.

Mihai Ralea, who has approached violence as a phenomenon since 1931, supports the idea of violence manifested in large groups and formed through contamination, meaning that those ruled in their life by thinking and rationality, once settled in a group, lose their self-knowledge. This phenomenon is named “contagiousness” and can reach anyone.²⁸

It happens very often to see on stadiums people swearing and having a violent behavior, but in their daily life to be a real model for their politeness and respect.

World Health Organization launched in 1996 a four level risk program to prevent violence:²⁹

a) **Individual level**, where risk of violence is given by previous abuse and antagonistic experiences, mental disturbances and illness as well. Prevention at this level will develop as a target self respect development;

b) **Interpersonal level**, where violence risk is given by the alcohol or drugs intake, by the man’s control over family’s goods, but also by conflicts inside the family;

c) **Institutional level**, which has as causal factors for violent behavior the following: low level of socio-economic status, unemployment, women social isolation and violent families, joining to men’s delinquent groups. In order to build prevention at this level a target should be established in attending schools and programs with educational profile and community cohesion development as well.

²³ Etienne G.Krug,Linda L. Dahlberg,James A.Mercy,Anthony Zwi,Raphael L.Ascenio, „*The world report on violence and health*” ,pag.165;

²⁴ Neculau, Adrian (coord.), „ *Manual de psihologie socială*”, Publisher.Polirom, Iași, 2003,p.270

²⁵ Idem, p.263-271

²⁶ Jean Proulx, Maurice Cusson și Marc Ouimet, “*Les violences criminelles*”,1999,p.3

²⁷ Balica, Ecaterina, „ *Criminalitatea Violentă.Tendințe și factori de risc*”, Publisher. Oscar Print,2008,p.35

²⁸ www.supliment.polirom.ro/interviu

²⁹ Ana Muntean, „*Violența în familie, în Violență. Aspecte psihosociale*”, coordonate by Gilles Ferreol și Adrian Neculau, Publisher.Polirom, 2003, p.153- 154

d) **Structural level**, where the risk of violence is close related to cultural tolerance of violence in controversy solving, rigid gender model promotion and encouraging male as a dominant element.

H. Anomic violence

Raymond Boudon and Francois Bourricaud appreciate that the anomic violence is “the proliferation result of aggressive relationships in disturbed areas of the society”.³⁰

Violent anomic forms are given by the possible types of anomy in a society: “legal, political and moral anomy.” Legal anomy encourages aggression against a member of the society and his or her belongings as a result of loosened legal norms.

Political anomy concurs with insecurity generalization which brings increasing number of self-defence actions and repression institution support. Legal anomy combined with the political one lead to exceptional situations. Moral anomy demolishes the individual respect for law and customary law and invite to a “save whoever is able” generalised state.

According to the authors, there are two cases where violence is manifested in different forms:

- *Totalitarianism*, defined by disorganized violence”manifested by a society against its own members in order to prevent any preferences (verbal or nonverbal)”.
- *War*, defined by organized violence “war representing an organized and driven exercise and its strategists do not intend to kill, but to break the political will of an opponent, to destroy it not as a living person, but as a political combatant”.

I. Conflicting violence and predatory violence

According to Maurice Cusson³¹, conflicting violence involves the existence of conflicting relationships between aggressor and his/her victim previous the conflict (murder in a married couple), while in the case of predatory violence there are no relationships among the people involved in aggression (for example murder in a case of stealing or raping an unknown woman).

Conflicting violence implies a conflict understood as a “disagreement between two parts which end by hostilities exchanges.” It the case of conflicting violence is difficult to distinguish victim to aggressor as the two exchange their parts during the conflict. Also, conflicting violence usually takes place when the people involved live in a social and physics proximity: live in the same house, are colleagues or neighbours.

Predator violence is manifested one-sided; one person being aggressed and the other is the aggressor.

Proulx and his collaborators have identify some of the characteristics of the two types of violence starting from information close related by the purpose of violence, the role of victim and aggressor, their experiences and development (see Table 1).

Table 1. Predatory violence and conflicting violence characteristics

Predator violence	Conflicting violence
Example	Example
Armed robbery ordered murder, murder associated with stealing, rape against an unknown person, „charging”	Alcoholic fight, family arguments, murder in a married couple
Violence purpose	Violence purpose
The aggressor wants to constrain the victim, to take his/her money to take advantage of it	Anyone of those implied wants to punish the other, to revenge, to save himself/herself, to defend
The aggressor and victim’s role	The aggressor and victim’s role

³⁰ Raymond Boudon, Francois Bourricaud, “*Dictionnaire critique de la sociologie*”, 2004,p. 672,675,678

³¹ Maurice Cusson, ” *Criminologie actuelle*”, 1998,p.22-35

The aggressor is the attacker, he/she attacks first without being provoked; proactiv. The victim supports the attack	Sometimes is difficult to distinguish between aggressor and victim. The damages are shared. The opponents exchanges blows, everyone with defence or retorting feelings
<i>Emotions</i>	<i>Emotions</i>
Indifference concerning the victim. Justification	Fury, hostility, hatred, fear, injustice feelings, humiliation
<i>Development</i>	<i>Development</i>
Preparing, attacking, running.	Mistake or insult, ultimatum, deny excuses, arguments accompanied with fight.

Source: According to Jean Proulx, Maurice Cusson, *Que savons – nous sur la violence criminelle?*, în : Jean Proulx, Maurice Cusson, Marc Ouimet : *Les violences criminelles*, Les Presses de L'Universite Laval, 1999, p. 21

J. Symbolic violence

French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, starts his theory from the fact that members of any society are hierarchically placed based on their economical resources, social, cultural which any of them owns.

Any person is supposed to accede to a higher position throughout his/her life generating tensions among interpersonal relationships. In a so called „game for domination” anyone will take advantage of his or her assets and, according to the situation, will convert so that to obtain maximum satisfaction with the least effort. There is in the whole process a value resource, a symbolic asset which provides the biggest and most secure income and this one is associated with prestige, honour and respect.

It is a hidden violence, which is not necessary related to hatred, fury, slaughtering cruelty or collective atrociousness. This „soft” form of violence is presented under different forms of economical, cultural or social domination, not obvious in daily life.³² Bourdieu states that symbolic violence is one “censored and euphemistic, meaning unrecognizable and acknowledged.”

It cannot be discussed about symbolic violence if the participants in such action have different semantic codes. Thus, the process of symbolic impose of power is preceded by creation of some cognitive schemes in a person’s mind to force him/her to see things in a certain way.³³ In this equation, the role of the state and also politics is an essential one, because being “empowered by gathering and exerting its power it is enabled with means to impose and inculcate such long lasting principles”.³⁴

Imposing implies an aggressive and violent language with Manichaeian accents: “those who are against symbols are covered by negative appreciations and those who accept and conform receive the praises.”

3. Typology of violence in sport

Even though there is no exact definition of the concept of sport violence, the phenomenon as such has been carefully studied, typologies of violence in sport have been studied, identified violent actions that are the object of this research and causes that determine aggressive behavior have been investigated.

Georges Vigarello, for example, estimates that there are four dimensions of the violence in sport concept: “*symbolic violence, direct violence of the actors, direct violence of the audience,*

³² Sorin Tudor Maxim, „*Violența în sport*”, Published bu Suceava University 2006, p.132-133

³³ Elisabeta Stanciulescu, „*Teorii sociologice ale educatiei*”, Polirom, Iasi, 1997, p.171

³⁴ Pierre Bourdieu, „*Ratiuni practice*”, Publishera Meridiane, Bucharest, 1999, p.85

indirect violence of both, those of the accidents, of disasters or of the organizational failures of any kind liable to determine bloodshed”.³⁵

The contemporary analysts Beatrice Abălașei defines violence in sport as: “*behavior manifestation which consists of explosive actions spontaneous or premeditated, which violate moral rules, physical integrity and social rights of peoples*.”³⁶

As it was previously presented, there are numerous typology of violence, according to different forms of social organization, but they are not encountered in daily life in a pure form. Sports represent the symbolic form, but its effects become visible only through physical violence, this being able to influence collective violence appearance. Sports represent a confrontational state, whose purpose is to win or support the symbolic defeat, honour or contempt being shared among community members.

Jean-Yves Lassalle has analyzed violence in sport phenomenon from sociologic perspective and appreciated that two types are distinguished: **Sportspeople’s violence** and **Supporters’ violence**.³⁷

1. **Sports people’s violence** can be direct or indirect, voluntary or involuntary according to the type of sport. There are sports with a high level of violence such as box, wrestling or martial arts. There are also sports with a lower level of violence: chess or tennis, but not this type of violence is a problem for the society. The regulations for different sports, even those that imply a high level of violence, have been trying to diminish or even eliminate the violence consequences.

The majority of sociologists have concluded that violence gives rise to violence. Despite the fact that regulations for different sports have been devise so that to narrow or to eradicate the phenomenon, infringing them by players of a certain sport, new forms of violence are born, sometimes with disastrous consequences on participants. Thus, even any organizational effort regarding the event became useless.

2. The phenomenon which has captured the attention regarding violence in sport is **supporters’ violence**. This phenomenon takes place most of the time on stadiums and outside them with worrying consequences as there are injured people and material goods destructions. Football is on the first place in this respect. In order to explain this phenomenon some factors which should be considered are related to supporters’ personality on one side and on the other side are connected to social and psychosocial features. The beginning of research on supporters’ and hooligans’ violence on the football stadiums has implied to determine demographic and social coordinates of the violent groups of supporters (age, sex, profession, level of education etc). Having these elements clearly established, the researchers have deepen the study regarding the supporters’ violence and have investigated causes related to lack of social integration, some dwellers marginalization, a certain degree of subculture. The sport event becomes a fight, individual or collective, against some obstacles or enemies, becomes an inner war for a spectator, that one indirectly implied by choosing a favourite, either an athlete or a team which represents the club, the city or the country.

Conclusions

Contemporary society evolution emphasizes the fact that despite the intensified measures and interventions of the specialized institutions in controlling delinquency and criminality deeds, in many countries a recrudescence and increasing number of violent attitudes and aggression are encountered in economical and financial-banking areas, fraud, blackmail, bribery, corruption as well. Violence is not a new phenomenon, its advent as its evolution as well being close connected by people, groups, organizations and humane society’s development. This is one of the reason for which some

³⁵ Sorin Tudor Maxim, „*Violența în sport*”, Publisher Suceava University 2006, p.70

³⁶ <http://www.sportsisocietate.ro/articol/violen-a-i-spectacolul-sportiv-o-perspectiv-psiho-social/48>

³⁷ Idem, „*Violența în sport*”, Publisher Suceava University 2006, p.71 -72

researchers estimate that violence is a human permanence, close connected to human being and society development.

In conclusion, as it has emphasised in the present paper, in the contemporary society there are numerous forms of violence, but never in a pure form. Violence in sport is emphasized as symbolic violence, but this one can degenerate into other forms of violence. Most of the time, violence, in sport, a symbolic violence, becomes physical violence, primary which becomes conflicting, collective, communitarian violence.

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