

“The work by Zbigniew Tarkowski and Ewa Humeniuk is devoted to mutism, a disorder that is heterogeneous in terms of its clinical manifestations and of even more complex etiology. The authors made an effort to examine the phenomena related to mutism that are complementary to it and partly explain its complexity. A great deal of the study is concerned with the notion of shyness and logophobia, the phenomena that outstandingly explain the genesis of mutism. As representatives of social sciences, they draw special attention to the social context of the disorders. Such a proposal of maneuvering the mechanisms of shyness, logophobia and mutism in search of their common notional scopes constitute an essential cognitive novelty in the way of comprehension of behaviors difficult to assess. Scientific literature of the subject substantially proves the definitional fluency of the phenomena discussed, their situational interchangeability, the extent of symptom expression and their mutual mosaic. The study is not only a revision of the three disorders with a special focus on mutism as the phenomenon that is the coping stone of all forms of inability to express verbally (vocally), but above all is the proposal of seeking a common assessment formula in the spirit of the description of various ladders put upon one human tree of problems with verbal communication. According to the authors, shyness, logophobia and mutism are three different facets of a suffering person, where social conditioning affect the disorder mechanism to a much greater extent than it was depicted in the research so far.”

Prof. Waldemar Tłokiński,