

Combat Experience Perception of Reserved Soldiers in Operation "oferet yezoka", an encounter with the literature

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This research examines the echoing between literary text and the human experience, while containing parallel processes: (I) The influence of the human experience on the response and interpretation to the text; and (II) The effect of the text on the same experience and the way the human perceives it.

An analysis of the soldiers' combat experiences and reading responses yield a number of interesting findings:

1. The experience and its echoing are expressed in the way participants interpreted the esthetic literary text, in a manner that teaches about and expands on the participants' perception of their experiences.
2. A difference was found between the second recounting of the experience as this recounting related to two distinct types of text.

The relationship between the way participants described their experiences and the way they interpreted a literary narrative is indicative of the importance of this study. The therapeutic implications touch upon the choice of a text for therapeutic purposes. The study addresses the relationship between bibliotherapy and the combat experience. A narrative created during and after a harsh experience is often not complete, and this lack of wholeness is a source of posttraumatic pain (Hagemeister & Rosenblatt, 1977). The echoing, which is the subject of the present study, enables the illumination and exposure – through reaction to the text – of incomplete emotional or psychological areas within the combat experience.

Keywords: Bibliotherapy, combat experience, Operation Cast Lead.

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