

The Method of Wittgenstein's Therapeutic Philosophy and Freud's Psychoanalysis

Akinori Hayashi

Abstract

The later Wittgenstein's philosophy, centering on the *Philosophical Investigations* is often characterize as *therapeutic*. Therapeutically interpreted, Wittgenstein never intends to construct a systematic theory or view in order to solve a philosophical problem, but rather he aims at *dissolving* it by means of showing that it is merely a pseudo-problem which we do not have to take up as a genuine problem. It is often interpreted that Wittgenstein's philosophy tries to cure, as it were, our contractable "disease" called philosophy.

The idea of therapeutic philosophy comprises the view of philosophy without a theory. For, if therapeutic philosophy intends to propound theoretical assertions, it would be no longer therapeutic philosophy, but rather it would be a kind of philosophy which has no substantial difference from the usual style of current academic philosophy – refuting or criticizing a view which we do not agree, and propounding an alternative promising view instead. Now the problem of the therapeutic interpretation is that, whereas most commentators agree that the later Wittgenstein's philosophy is therapeutic, there is no agreement on what exactly therapeutic philosophy is.

The purpose of this paper is to clarify the *methodological features* of Wittgenstein's therapeutic philosophy. I attempt to clarify why Wittgenstein thinks that we do not need a theory but a therapy in philosophy. In order to do so, I shall investigate the features of problems-settings in his therapeutic philosophy. Moreover, I shall show that the peculiarity of Wittgenstein's problem-settings demands the specific method for overcoming the problems presented in his enterprise of therapeutic philosophy.

In order to achieve this purpose, I shall examine the *methodological similarities* between Wittgenstein's therapeutic philosophy and Freud's psychoanalysis. Although some commentators point out the various relations between Wittgenstein and Freud, the methodological similarities of them did not become clear, because most commentators did not focus on inquiring them from the perspective of therapeutic philosophy. The aim of this paper is to show the features and purposes of Wittgenstein's therapeutic philosophy through examining the methodological similarities between Wittgenstein and Freud.