Plural

"Anyone who falls under the multiple spectrum, whether they're trauma-based multiples, medians, natural plurals, soulbonders, or any combination thereof" (Sylvans System, n.d.) This, however, is not the only definition the term has gone under.

Quick Details

Coined By: ???
Time Used: 1994? - Present
Locations Used: EVERYWHERE.

[LB Cataloging Note: Astraea's Multi BBS Records show no use of the term "plural" from 1992 through January 1995, except in reference to Stephen Braude's "First Person Plural".]

1994-1997 a.s.d. Synonym for "Multiple"

On alt.support.dissociation, "plural" was occassionally used as a synonym for "multiple." For example, Sapphire Gazelles writes, "being plural is my (our) only perspective so it seems normal to us..." (1994, November 15). Another commenter uses it the same way, while also referring to multiplicity as a continuum: "maybe it's not as simple as either singular or plural, [...] maybe this is another of those continuum things and i'm not on the extreme singular end but somewhere in between" (Gordon, 1994, November 7). Such uses continue through 1997, at least (Vineburg, 1997 November 4).

This may have been where Vickis got the idea.

1998 Vickis' Definition

From the start of the 1998, Vicki's page, the Wonderful World of the MidContinuum had as its heading quote, "I may not be **multiple** , but I'm certainly **plural** !" attributed to someone named Jaye (Vickis, 1998 January 15). Plurality appears to have been used as an umbrella term for midcontinuums and multiples alike; "Our culture tends to divide things in either/or categories, so 'if we are _not_ MP, then we _must_ be singleton.' Wrong. **It's a continuum!"** (ibid). This seems to be the earliest citation of the use of "plural" as an umbrella term.

2002 Pavilion Hall Definition

Pavilion Hall specifically banned MPD/DID multiples from being plural, equating them with lack of functioning. "Plurality and MPD should not be confused for one another. [...] Plurality is a functional, non-disordered state of being: MPD is a nonfunctional disorder, which may require therapy and perhaps integration" (2003, July 15).

Pavilion Hall's glossary contradicts this statement though; there, they define plural in the alt.support.dissociation way, as, "The state of being multiple, in which a body is shared by two or more persons" (2003, July 25). Since their glossary was based on the one from Dark Personalities (ibid), it's possible they just copy-pasted their definition without thinking it through, but since none of the archives of the Dark Personalities glossary contain the term "plural," it's also possible that Pavilion Hall just wanted to use a more moderate term in the more public pages.

2003 Astraea's Web Definition

Astraea's Web mostly lifts the Pavilion Hall glossary, but it does use Vickis' umbrella term, stating, "Plural: The state in which a body is shared by two or more persons. Includes multiples and medians" (2003, January 11). From there, the term seems to have spread into more general use.

Citations

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Revision #3
Created 2019-03-15 00:17:38 UTC by LB Lee
Updated 2019-03-23 05:14:59 UTC by LB Lee