



# Discourse Analysis



Tony Fisher & Daniel Hunt

# Membership Categorization Analysis

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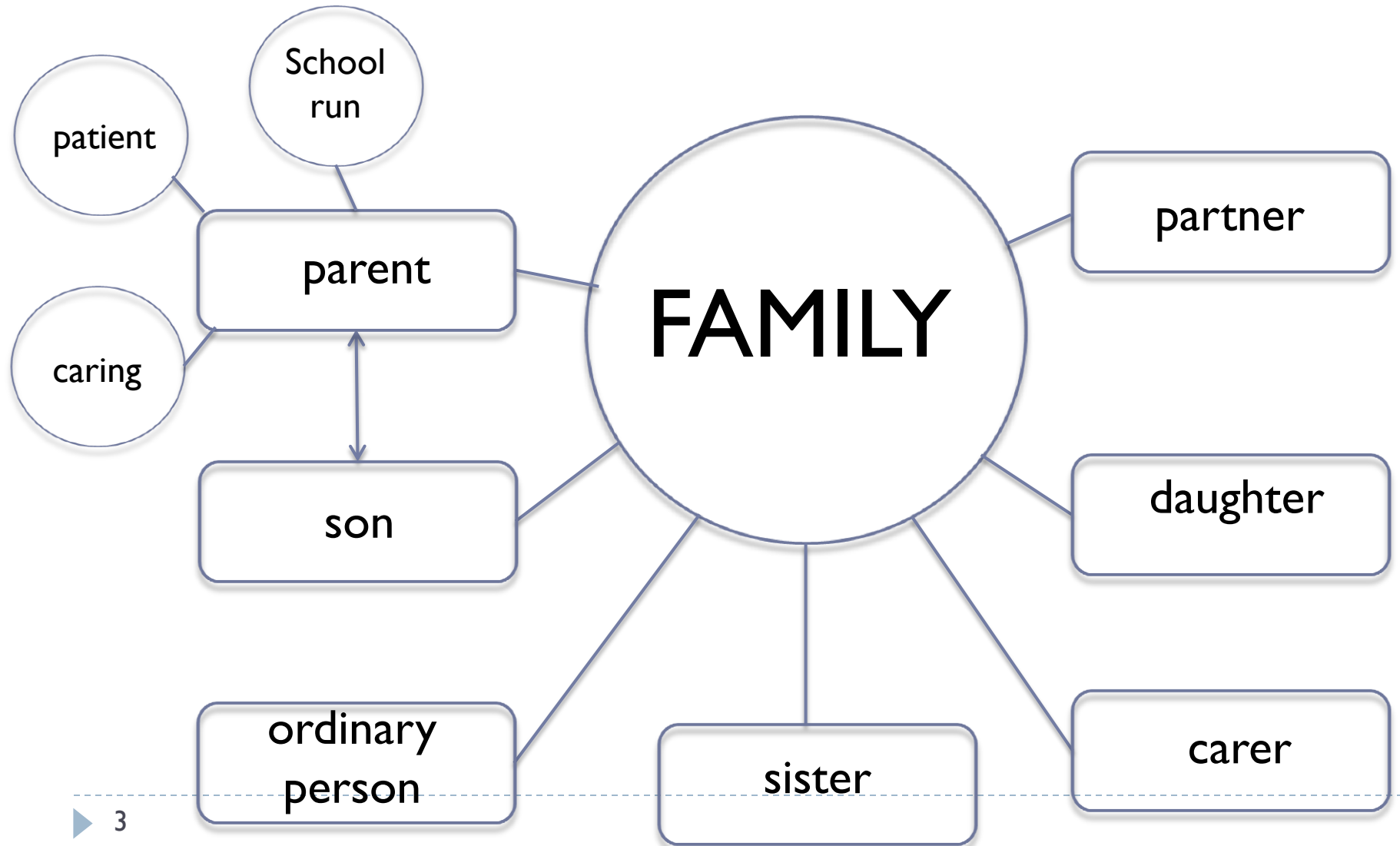
- ▶ People position self and others in categories
  - ▶ e.g. “Good morning Doctor Smith”
- ▶ Categories often grouped into collections
  - ▶ “All hospital staff must wear a name tag at all times”
- ▶ Categories have associated qualities/activities
  - ▶ “Would you take a look at my testicles, doctor?”

WELL, IT COULD  
BE WORSE.  
NO, WAIT....



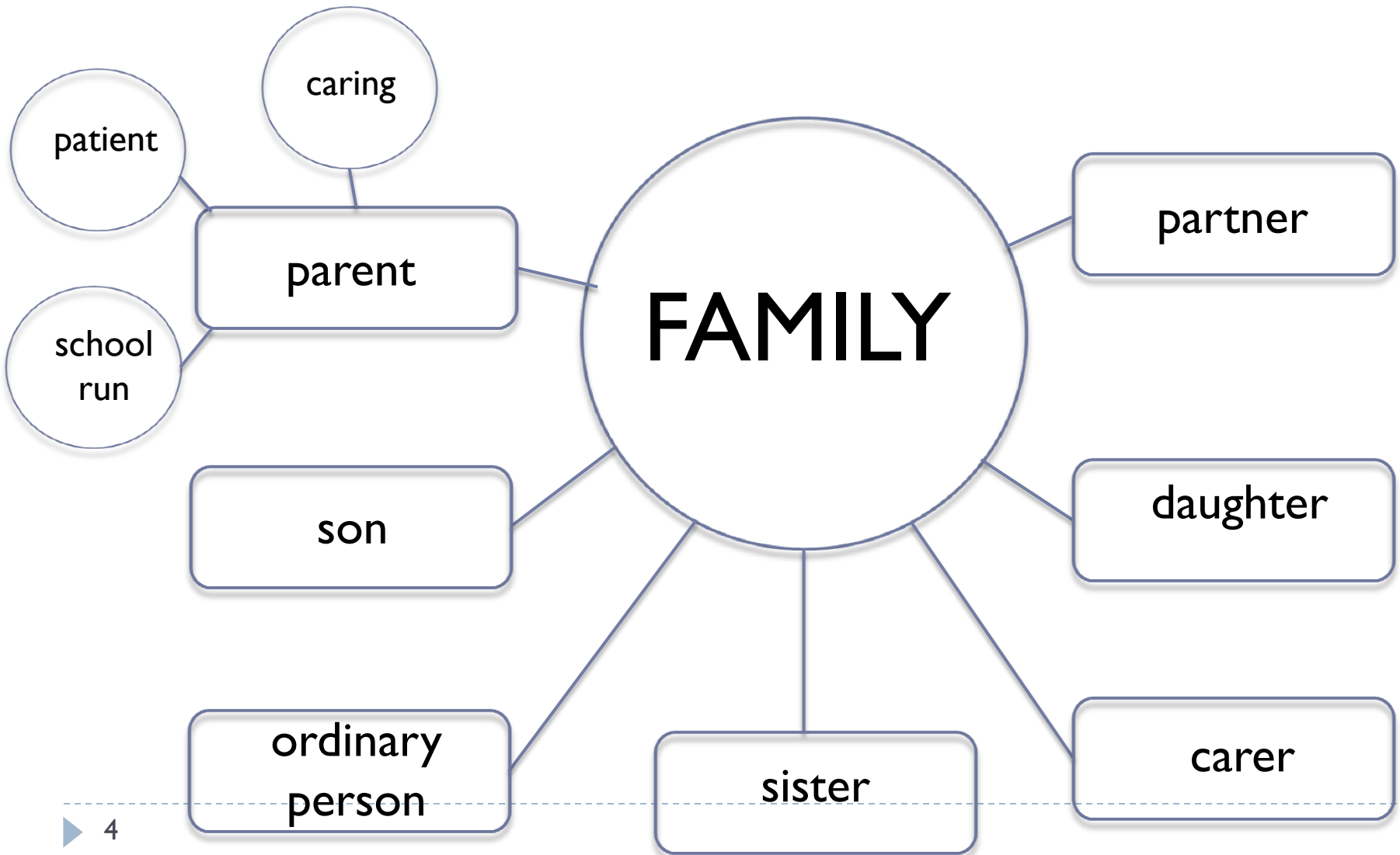
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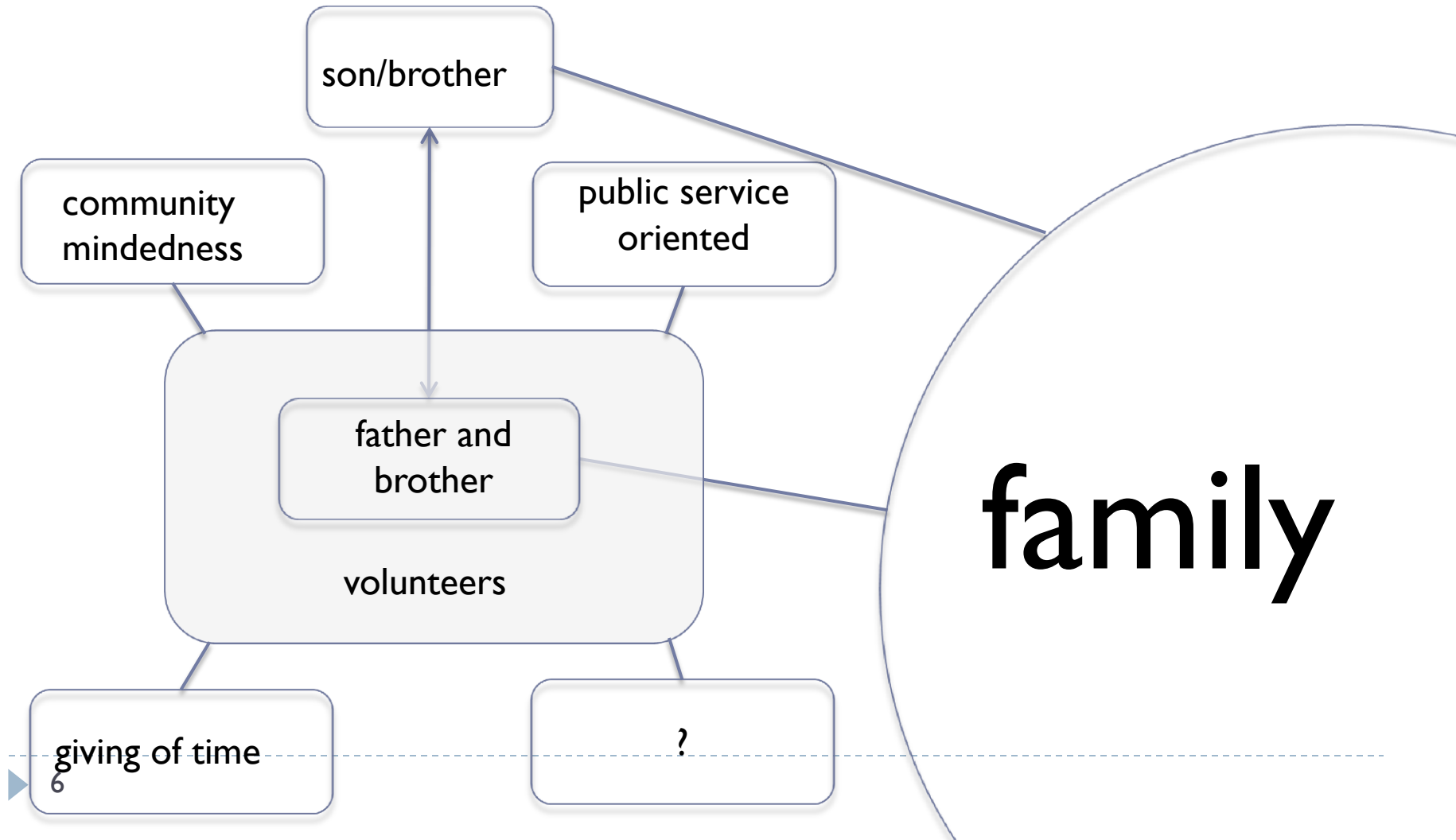
# Youth Club

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1. ever when I was young my father **ran a youth club** with my other brother for young people
2. and the more people who do **voluntary service** and give of their time in the community to getting young people off the streets to doing purposeful activity the better
3. whether it's sports or whether it's dancing or music or whether it's other activities that get people off the streets
4. but the one thing I'm absolutely sure of we've got to maintain the numbers of police we have in this country



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# NHS

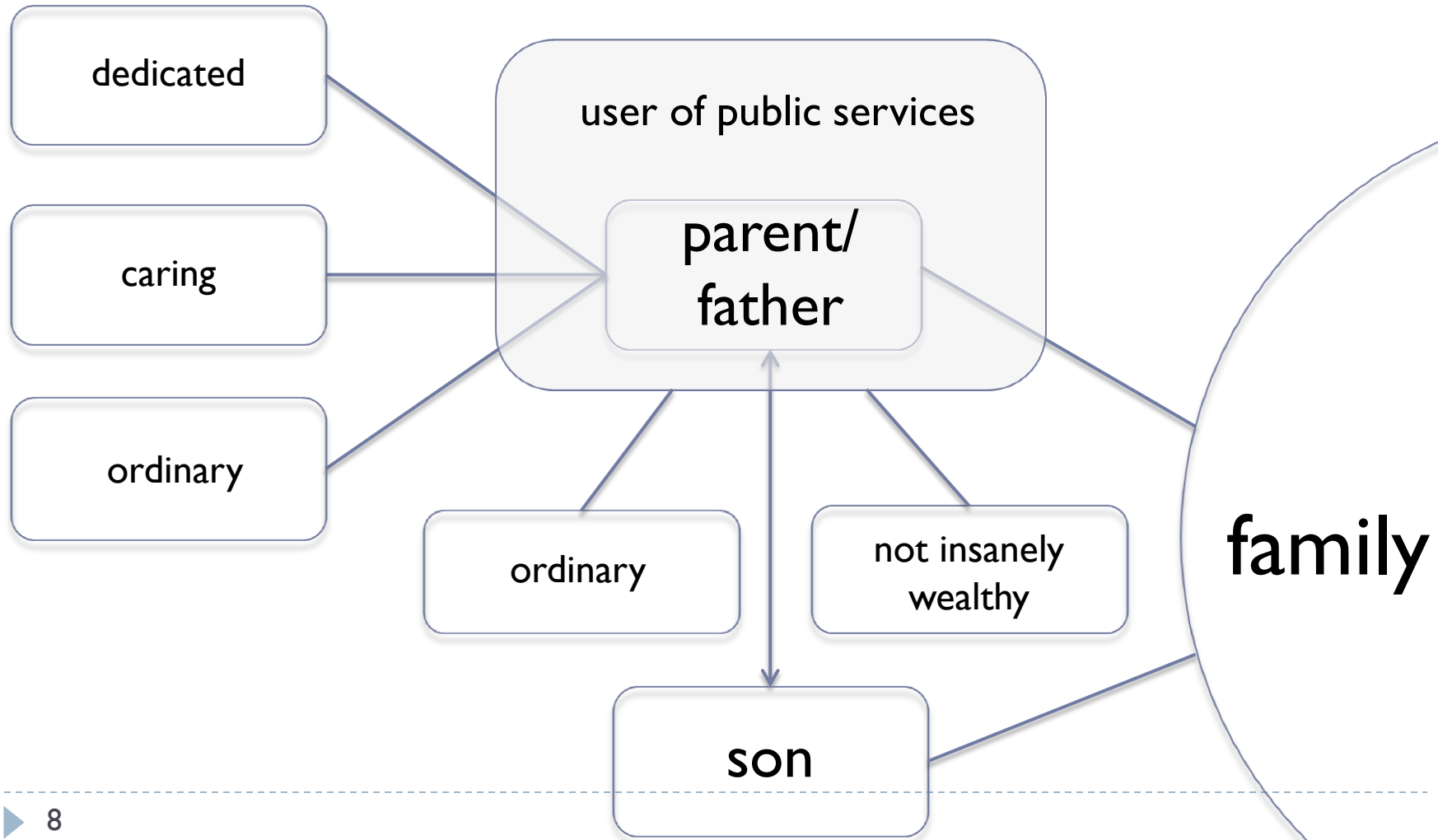
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1. I think the NHS is a wonderful wonderful thing
2. what it did for for **my family and for my son**
3. I will never forget
4. **I went from hospital to hospital A and Es in the middle of the night sleeping in different wards in different places**
5. and the dedication and the vocation and the love you get from people who work in the NHS just I think makes me incredibly proud of this country
6. and so thank you for all that you've done



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# Identity, illness and online support


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- ▶ Using linguistic analysis to illuminate experiences of mental illness.
- ▶ Online support groups for eating disorders:
  - ▶ Popular source of information for patients.
  - ▶ Coming to terms with difficult or stigmatised conditions amongst others.
  - ▶ Have an attested influence on ‘real world’ healthcare behaviours.
- ▶ What I’m interested in:
  - ▶ How the meaning of ‘anorexia’ and the identity of a ‘person with anorexia’ is negotiated linguistically.
  - ▶ Illness experiences as interactional products.

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1. I know I need [nutritional advice] because ? **ED** always convinces me that I am having plenty...even though clearly that isn't the case.
  2. I felt like I was gross and lazy. I didn't think I could stand it and ? **ED** was telling me how much I would have to compensate today by not eating much and by walking a lot.
  3. I know its ? **ED** telling me that boney looks good; but it sure would be nice to have a bum back and my 'bra' to fit better! ;)



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  4. WHY do we feel this way about ourselves, other than that **the ED** is making us feel this way?
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# Identity, illness and online support

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- ▶ Group members make grammatical choices that separate anorexia from themselves.
- ▶ At the same time, they present anorexia as having a will of its own and controlling them.
- ▶ Construct disempowered identities.
- ▶ Linguistic choices help manage with the stigma and responsibility of mental health difficulties.
- ▶ Conflicts over 'the ED' are resolved interactively...

