Understanding the terminology of the CAMS

In developing categories for the CAMS from observation, an effort was made to use descriptors of emotions (affective-meaning states) that were not defined within an a priori theoretical orientation. So, while the categories draw on emotion focused theory for their conceptualization they are not always exactly translatable into the categories of primary and secondary emotion described by Greenberg and Paivio (1997). It is believed that the current classification may be more accessible to clinicians and researchers who are less familiar with EFT and more transportable across the conceptualizations of different treatment approaches. Nonetheless, below is a table that provides a translation from the CAMS states into secondary, primary maladaptive, and primary adaptive types of emotion used in EFT theory.

Pascual-Leone & Greenberg, Greenberg & Paivio (1997)

(2007) Emotional Processing Model Emotion Focused Theory

Global Distress Secondary emotion (i.e., undifferentiated emotion, secondary sadness)

Rejecting Anger Secondary anger (e.g, defensive rage, hate); primary disgust (not assertive); instrumental anger

Fear/Shame Primary maladaptive emotion (i.e., maladaptive -fear, or -shame, or -sadness)

Assertive Anger Primary adaptive anger

Self-Soothing Self soothing, self-compassion

Hurt-Grief Primary adaptive Sadness



