

PSYCHOLOGY

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Continuity principle in the structure of personality characteristics

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Summary. The continuum – hierarchical model of emotionality' structure is presented. It is regarded as a macrosystem, which consists of the split-level and interconnected subsystems. They have the specific descriptions. These levels are distinguished as the following: formally-dynamic; content-personal and socially-imperative. The first formally-dynamic level is served as a basis for the development of the next two other levels and it includes the set of all properties, which reflect the dynamics, the activity of the psychic phenomena and the individual properties of a constitutional nature. The second content-personal level includes the actual personal characteristics such as: a system of values, orientation, needed-motivational sphere, etc. The third socially-imperative level contains the class of characteristics that reflect the features of a personality's inclusion into a variety of public and social relations and experiencing the impact of the real social environment, social norms, cultural traditions etc. The selection of the separate subsystems is based on the differentiation; their interaction is possible through the contiguous areas and it is carried out due to the principles of integration. The continuum-hierarchical structure of a personality is presented on the basis of a system approach, which is regarded as a multi-level and multimodal system with a set of components, which interact with each other that provides its integrity.

Keywords: *emotionality, personality, structure, continuum, hierarchy, formally-dynamic level, content-personal level, socially-imperative level*

The problem of individual differences is one of the basic and always vital issues of psychology. Its theoretical value is determined by the fact that any general psychological conformity to the law really exists and shows up only in the varied individual variants, at the same time, its understanding and formalization is possible only from positions of high level of generalization. Thus, the sharpness of the posed problem shows up in correlation of the typical and the individual in the structure of personality properties that related to the necessity of overcoming of break between general and differential psychology, between theory and practice. This break is especially sharply felt in branches of applied psychology called to solve the practical problems taking into account the factor of individuality.

As general psychology includes in its content the problem of personality and can not get around the question of individual displays, so psychological practice must be oriented on general laws, which science discovers at the study of differences between people.

Long ago in psychology the idea was formulated that individuality is the enormous self-developing and self-regulating system which is determined by co-operation of unlimited number of terms and factors. Self-regulation and self-development of the system is possible only because it consists of a great number of, to a certain extent, closed or opened subsystems which are in hierarchical attitude toward each other.

In this context the most expedient at the study of individuality and its properties there can be such system approach which assumes research of general and private, typical and individual [1]. Within the limits of this approach our research is carried out. In this let us note that we rely on the methodologically substantiated in psychology distinction of biological (individual) and social-and-cultural (personal) in the integral individuality structure.

As a basis for the study of individual differences between people in personality features typological properties of the nervous system are traditionally chosen. At research of individual distinctions an accent on physiology features is not always constructive. Consequently, the

choice of such individually-psychological personality features is needed, which not only underlie its structure but are also the proper psychological determinants of activity, including professional [2].

For this reason, as foundation for the search of individual differences, which appear in combinations and in the displays of personality features, we select steady property of individuality – **emotionality**.

The purpose of this report is to expose the basic tenets of emotionality theory developed by us and our graduate students in the context of personality and activity approaches [3].

Study of emotionality as the most important feature of individuality was started on initiative of Boris Teplov and Vladimir Nebylitsin, developed in 80-s of the past century by Ariadne Olshannikova and her disciples. It should be noted that presently there is stagnation in the study of this problematic, while in Ukraine (in Odessa) complex researches are actively conducted during more than 20 years.

Our researches pursue a *triune purpose* and, accordingly, are developed to *three basic directions*:

In connection with the fact that emotionality is studied in the system of personality properties and in the system of mechanisms which regulate activity, within the framework of the first direction the following work was carried out:

- development of *theoretical and methodological principles* of research of personality psychological features, including personality of professional;
- development of continual and hierarchical model of personality structure;
- explication and description of component composition of indices of integral individuality of professional at different levels, which must be compared with emotionality.

The second direction is devoted directly to development of methodological bases of theory of emotionality which needs system analysis, study of its structure in the context of continuum-hierarchical approach, study of component composition of its indices, research of phenomenology of emotionality as a complex integral, multi-level *personality property* and as *the special phenomenon* in a row of the

emotional phenomena [4].

The purpose of the third direction was development of the program of empiric research of emotionality in the context of psychological personality features hypothetically related to it; creation of the complex of psycho-diagnostic tools relevant to the purpose and tasks of the research. The solution of this task is possible through the selection of existing and development of new original methods and technologies of psycho-diagnostics of professionally important personality features in accordance with the requirements of psychometrics.

Due to the fact that within the limits of one report it is impossible to expound the results of the whole theoretical and empirical research of this problem we will shortly stay on the main points of each of the noted directions.

At development of the first direction of research modern approaches to research of personality structure were taken into account. The problem of personality features, including professionally important, is traditionally solved in the context of conception of their accordance-disparity to the requirements of activity, social environment or profession. In the turn these requirements reflect those universal features and peculiarities which personality must own for successful implementation of vitally important tasks.

At the same time, it is important to note that the range of requirements to personality is so wide (it is confirmed in a number of theoretical and empirical psychological researches, by the peculiarities of specific activities, large degree of vagueness of standards of the activity itself), that until now there is no universal approach even to their classification. In modern psychology at research of personality and activity of professional theoretical and empiric material, rich in content, is accumulated, the analysis of which enabled us to reach *the structural understanding of personality* both in general psychological sense and in relation to professional activity.

Taking into account approaches to research of personality structure that have been established, relying on the existent concepts of professionally important properties, of the internal conditionality of individual selectivity in relation to external determination, we offer the model of continuum-hierarchical structure of personality (in the wide understanding of this concept), including personality of professional, in which *three* levels are chosen as *basic*, and *two* as *intermediate* associate ones. As *basic* such levels are chosen:

- I. Formally-dynamic level (aggregate of all properties which represent dynamics of proceeding of the psychical phenomena and individual properties of constitutional character);
- II. Content-personal level (orientation, sphere of needs and motifs of personality and others like that);
- III. socially-imperative or normative level.

If two first levels are consonant (both verbally, and on sense) with the concept of two-pronged character of psychical phenomena (dynamic and meaningful), the third one includes that class of characteristics, which reflect the present personality representations of society, moral, codes of conduct, culture. The scopes of mutual relations between levels are conditional and washed out. Exactly it enables to examine transitions from one level to other as certain contiguous spaces, which unites features belonging to two ad-

jacent levels.

These intermediate areas make the level of qualitative characteristics (between the first and second basic levels) and level of characteristics of experience (between the second and third basic levels).

Such approach gives the clear picture of structure of different personality features, which are traditionally attributed either to properties of temperament or to properties of character. Consequently, principle of continuity, used in the offered structure of personality, at the analysis of its separate features makes it possible to clearly structure their indices of different levels. Thus, every feature is examined as a single integral formation, which "pierces" the whole structure of personality (from lower levels to higher ones) and which is variously presented at every level of personality structure and, accordingly, variously shows up in activity.

Within the framework of the second direction the system analysis of emotionality which is examined in a context of this particular model **was conducted**. Consequently, from positions of continuum-hierarchical approach emotionality is examined as a steady, integral, structural formation of personality, which is characterized by certain combination of its indices of different levels.

Emotionality is the complex of individually-steady properties which represent the peculiarities of appearance and proceeding of the emotional experiences and characterize steady attitude toward the outer world and peculiarities of co-operation with it. Unlike the actual or situational (transit) experiences (emotional reactions or emotional states) emotionality as a property characterizes out-of-situation, steady propensity to experience emotions of a certain sign and modality.

The structure of emotionality includes the whole complex of properties:

I. Formally-dynamic level: parameters, which characterize *emotional excitability*, force, intensity, duration, speed of appearance, proceeding of the emotional experiences. The peculiarities of *expression* of this level are characterized by a general tendency to external expression of emotions, by general mobility of a man, by a degree, brightness, energy of movements, easiness of their appearance, facial expressions and pantomime agility and the like.

The formally-dynamic (some authors call it psychodynamic) level of individuality is presented by psychical qualities (properties, features) relatively independent of specific activity meaning and actual situations which format (a form is set) and regulate the dynamics of activeness of a man in a certain activity.

The area of crossing is a substructure of qualitative characteristics of emotionality, which carry information about modality (patterns of basic emotions), and sign of dominant emotions. It should be noted that Vladimir Nebylitsin and Ariadne Olshannikova considered quality of the emotional experience (modality and sign) as major in the aggregate of all signs of emotionality. This level of emotionality requires special attention.

It is known that the emotions of certain quality (modality and sign) differ among themselves by attitude towards an object that is expressed in the sign of dominant emotions. Herein their psychological essence lies. So, *acceptance* of object and *orientation* on it at *active* (on occasion, also passive) co-operation with it is peculiar to the positive

emotions (with the positive sign of "+"). *Orientation from the object is peculiar to the negative emotions (with the negative sign of "-") and, mainly, passive methods of co-operation with it. Consequently, quality of emotions can determine global forms of co-operation with an environment and some parameters of activity; connection of temperament with personality properties, with the features of activity, including professional, as exactly qualitative characteristics of emotions express their essences signs – attitude of the subject towards an environment.*

In the context of continuum-hierarchical approach at this level of personality structure each of *the noted emotional qualities (sign and modality)* can be characterized:

– By the existential *experiences* themselves that are in the palette of emotions of every pattern;

– By the presence of a *cognitive component, which shows up in the specific forms of thinking, images which accompany experiences of anger, gladness, sorrow, fear, calmness;*

– By the presence of a *connotative component, which shows up by the actions, expression, differentiated on belonging to certain emotional modality. Every emotional modality has its specific expression (specific expressive movements, certain poses, paralinguistic characteristics), that is, those expressive displays, on which experiences of gladness, anger, fear, sorrow, calmness differ from general mobility activity and energy of expression, that in general is inherent to the formally-dynamic level of emotionality;*

– By the presence of *control and regulation constituent, that shows up in the mastery of emotional experiences and their external displays, etc.*

II. Content-personal level. The components of emotionality of this level reflect the phenomena and situations which have the special significance for a subject. These characteristics are indissolubly connected with cored personality properties: by the orientation of motivational sphere, valued orientations, options, world view, and others like that. At this level, emotions themselves become a value.

It should be noted that "content" is this relatively changeable characteristic of integral formation, which reflects the variety of the internal and external co-operations opened out as process in scopes and under the influence of form (functioning), or which results in coming-to-be of the appropriate new form (development). In psychological researches, in particular, in longitudes, it is set that the different levels of psychological organization of man have the different degree of stability and changeability. If the row of socially-psychological characteristics of personality experience the substantial changes during life, psycho-dynamic (or formal and dynamic), such, as general psychical activity, emotionality change little. Being steady characteristics and creating the relatively steady environment of determination, emotionality executes the function of form. Within the limits of the set form content is opened out. Both the whole system of personality properties and its separate levels and concrete psychological properties comes forward as content.

Consequently, a content aspect that comes forward through visual-semantic psychological structures (knowledge, motives, aims and others like that) is the aggregate of properties, signs, features of individual psyche, which are formed as a result of co-operation of man with out-

ward world, his social environment.

The area of crossing is a substructure of experience.

This substructure, as an intermediate area between two adjacent levels also touches a semantic aspect, through subject-semantic psychological structures: knowledge, motives, aims and others like that and engulfs the aggregate of properties, signs, features of individual psyche, which are formed as a result of co-operation of man with a subject world, with a social environment.

So, the components of emotionality of this level through elaboration of emotional experience through the realizing of experiences are characterized by: the presence of a developed reflection; conscious actions, abilities and skills which are aimed at productive, high quality and timely display of personality emotional competence; at the creative and constructive use of personality expressive resource.

III. Socially-imperative (normative) level. These components of emotionality are predefined by inclusion of personality in social connections and reflect influence on its peculiarities of common to all mankind culture, national culture, religion, profession, social environment traditions, and others like that. The social and imperative level of emotionality shows up in the specificity of expression of representatives of different cultures. In this case expression, as *emotional signal of personality*, demonstrates its belonging to the certain group of people (cultural, national, religious, professional and others like that). Thus the valued orientations of this association, cultural, religious, social norms, and actual, and steady emotions of individual as a representative of this group on those objects which have the certain value exactly for this association (cultural, national group and others like that, that is environment). So, at this level emotionality as the integral phenomenon and every its modality is characterized by the degree of accordance-disparity of its substance, form and displays to the requirements of culture, religion, association, and others like that.

It should be noted that distribution of indices of emotionality by chosen levels is conditional. Emotionality, as well as every personality feature, contains the particle of dynamic, content-personal, socially-imperative in different proportions. Accepted division is rightful only for the analysis, as each of the indicated sides of personality, namely, the formally-dynamic, the content-personal, the socially-imperative (normative) has the specificity, the criteria of estimation and the displays in activity and conduct. It is important to note that the relations between the noted aspects of personality are always dialectical. Thus, the emotional appearance of everybody is determined by the co-ordinates of the considered parameters. Their combination forms a "nucleus" in multidimensional space of all characteristics of emotionality. Prevailing of one or a few modalities makes the individual type of emotionality, accordingly, mono-modal (five types) or poly-modal. The number of credible poly-modal types is calculated in tens (N is a factorial). Steady propensity to experience emotions of certain modality which characterizes the type of emotionality, determines an initial level, "threshold" of emotional sensitiveness, which is a background for opening out the actual (situational, transit) emotional experiences of every personality.

At development of the third direction of research, a program of empiric research, according to the requirements

of psychometrics, the complex of the psycho-diagnostic tools, based on a self-appraisal, expert estimation, prolonged approach (diary method), project techniques and others like that was created.

This psycho-diagnostic complex of methods, was developed by us and in the co-authorship with our graduate students, and is directed on empiric research of emotionality and wide spectrum of the psychological properties related to emotionality, including personality features of professional in area of socioeconomic professions. This complex is presented so far by 25 methods which diagnose such features, as sociability, empathy, empathic orientation, psychological shrewdness, self-respect, facilitivity, communicative creativity, social adaptability, suggestibility, tolerance, features of coping-conduct, et cetera.

The basis for selection of these particular personality features was:

- *Firstly*, high representation of these features in a personality structure and their role in formation of individuality;
- *Secondly*, their importance in a structure and regulation of activity, including professional;
- *Thirdly*, their accordance to the requirements and principles of integral approach to research of individuality;
- And, finally, that they were examined on one with emotionality hierarchical level (formally-dynamic and qualitative), that allows considering them comparable with emotionality.

The list of the author's methods includes:

- ”Test-questionnaire of formally-dynamic indexes of sociability”: self-appraisal and expert versions;
- ”Psycho-diagnostic modality test-questionnaire of empathy”: self-appraisal and expert versions;
- ”Psycho-diagnostic four modalities test-questionnaire of emotionality”;
- ”Questionnaire of expression”: self-appraisal and expert versions;
- ”The test-questionnaire of the psychological shrewdness” (co-author Elena Kiseleva);
- ”The test-questionnaire of diagnostics of indices of professional crisis experience” (co-author Irina Brynza);
- ”The test-questionnaire of communicative creativity” (co-author Ruslana Belousova);
- ”The test-questionnaire of dominant needs in communication” (co-author Alona Boldyreva);
- ”The situational test-questionnaire of emotionality of family” (co-author Irina Koshlan);
- ”The test-questionnaire of empathic orientation” (co-author Oksana Orischenko);
- ”The test-questionnaire of social adaptability” (co-author Oksana Kuznetsova);
- ”The complex of mutually complementary methods for diagnostics of emotionality of younger schoolchildren” (co-author Irina Vasilenko);
- ”The test-questionnaire of sociability of children of primary school age” (co-author Irina Vasilenko);
- ”The test-questionnaire of qualitative indices of aggressiveness” (co-author Inna Mazoha);
- ”The test-questionnaire of propensity to the change of oneself” (co-author Diana Luschikova);

”The test-questionnaire of qualitative components of propensity to the risk” (”risk-features”) (co-author Svetlana Bykova);

”The test-questionnaire of suggestibility” (co-author Yulya Folya);

”The test-questionnaire of self-appraisal of self-respect” (co-author Ludmila Kadysheva);

”The test-questionnaire of qualitative indices of tolerance” (co-author Elena Babchuk);

”The test-questionnaire of components of assertiveness” (TqcAs) (co-authors Aleksandr Sannikov, Nataliya Podolyak) and other methods.

All methods are standardized and have copyrights on work (certificates).

Thus, each of the noted directions is directly related to the *theoretical substantiation and empiric research of individually-psychological personality properties* at persons differentiating on emotionality [5].

It is set on the whole, that emotionality of both personality feature, formed to the certain moment of psychical development under the influence of as biological (constitution, properties of the nervous system) and social (development in the process of vital activity) factors, systematically influences on all levels of personality structure.

Emotionality sets scopes and range of own reactions of individual on surrounding reality, that shows up in qualitative-quantitative combination of different personality features, in individual styles of activity, in the peculiarities of experiencing situations causing stress, risk, situations of crises.

It is set that persons which belong to the same group of emotionality, that is, which have identical emotional dispositions, are characterized by the resembling specificity of such personality properties, as sociability, psychological shrewdness, empathy, empathic orientation, social adaptability, assertiveness, facilitivity, tolerance, et cetera. These persons get the resembling experiences, typical experience difficulties, barriers in intercourse; the certain mechanisms of psychological defenses are common to them; they use the resembling methods of reacting and exit from a crisis situation, they have the resembling methods of coping-conduct etc. At the same time, representatives of the same emotionality type demonstrate differences in the display of these personality features and peculiarities of conduct in comparison with the representatives of other emotional types.

Thus, at development of theory of emotionality which is treated as steady property of personality, it is set that it is a system factor; executes not only regulative but also selective function, skipping the meaningful signals of external environment and blocking meaningless ones. Emotionality takes part in determination of success of activity, in determination of individually-optimum forms and methods of conduct, in what its adaptive function shows up. Individual distinctions on emotionality are characterized by unique combination of elements of all component composition of personality properties, by degree of their integrating, repertoire variety of possible displays.

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Санникова О.П. Принцип континуальности в структуре свойств личности

Предложена континуально-иерархическая структура личности, которая рассматривается как сложная макросистема, состоящая из взаимообусловленных подсистем, имеющих специфические характеристики. Выделены формально-динамический, содержательно-личностный, социально-императивный уровни. К первому уровню, предшествующему развитию других, относится совокупность всех свойств, отражающих динамику, активность психических явлений и индивидуальные свойства конституционального характера. Второй уровень включает собственно личностные свойства: систему ценностей, направленность, потребностно-мотивационную сферу и тому подобное. Третий уровень – социально-императивный содержит класс характеристик, вызванный включением личности в различные общественные, социальные связи и детерминирован социальной средой, социальными нормами, культурными традициями, религией и тому подобное. Выделение отдельных подсистем основано на дифференциации, их взаимодействие через смежные зоны основано на принципе интеграции. Континуально-иерархическая структура личности представлена на основе системного подхода как многоуровневая и полимодальная система, как совокупность компонентов, которые взаимодействуют между собой, что обеспечивает ее целостность.

Ключевые слова: структура личности, континуум, иерархия, формально-динамическая подструктура, содержательно-личностная подструктура, социально-императивная подструктура