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COGNITIVE STYLES IN THE STRUCTURE OF INTEGRAL INDIVIDUALITY

The article presents the results of a systematic analysis of cognitive style approach to the differentiation of cognitive and personality characteristics of an integral individuality as an integrated hierarchical system. Cognitive styles are regarded as one of the levels of determination of individual differences and regulators of person's behavior.

Keywords: *cognitive styles, individual style, stylistic sphere of personality, differentiation, personality features, individual differences, personality differences, idiographic approach, formal approach.*

Topicality of the problems of cognitive-style approach to individuality, based on analysis of cognitive sphere organization characteristics (methods of individual-specific analysis, structuring, categorization, interpretation, prediction). In this context cognitive style is regarded as a psychological entity that integrates not only cognitive, but also motivational, emotional and other personal characteristics.

With the development of stylistic research, the facts were gradually accumulated, which indicate that cognitive styles are among the basic characteristics of personality, as evidenced by their close connection with both biological (sex, properties of the nervous system) and social factors (family, environment, education).

Cognitive styles research has convincingly proved that individual ways of processing information not only determine the procedural characteristics of cognitive mental processes, but are closely related to many personality traits. The research results formed the basis for development of cognitive personality theories. These theories stated, in contrast to personological schools, that the determinants of personality traits and uniqueness of individual behavior should be sought in the peculiarities of perception, structuring, coding and understanding of reality by person.

In light of the above, the discussion on several key questions is of interest: How cognitive styles are represented in the structural components of an integrated individuality? Are cognitive style parameters really associated with *individual, personality traits and peculiarities of social behavior*? Due to what cognitive styles play an *integration role in the differentiation of individual differences* in the ontogeny of individuality?

The purpose of the article is to analyze the cognitive-style determinants of distinguishing of individual differences in the ontogeny of an integral individuality.

Theoretical analysis of the problem. Cognitive styles psychology was formed at the intersection of cognitive psychology and personality psychology. Stylistic research was originally associated with the purpose to explain personality and predict her behavior by studying individual-specific ways of cognitive activity organization.

Despite the obvious facts of life, the problem of the connection between the cognitive mental processes and personality traits or between general psychology and personality psychology, when it comes to the broader context, stays practically undeveloped. However, in the works of modern personologists one can track down the explicit and implicit tendency to consider the forming of personality characteristics in the context of functioning of the more general by nature mental phenomena – cognitive styles.

Considering the problem of determination of personality traits as cognitive-style entities, we proceeded from the concept of *integral individuality* by V.Merlin. In this concept

the author proves the principle of multi-multi-valued dependencies of mental phenomena on physiological ones and reveals the indirect nature of interrelation between different levels of integral organization of individual personality traits (neurodynamic, psychological and personality traits). Using the principle of hierarchy, the scientist identifies *individual, personality* and *individuality* levels of psychic organization of integral individuality [5].

“Individuality is those features, that add *originality* and *certain style* to the psychological pattern of the concrete individual” – indicates L.Sobchik [6, p.19]. Originating from genetic determinants, personality taints consistently temperament and character and top levels of individuality with its peculiarity. Formation of individual personality characteristics occurs, when the specific person perceives information about itself and the outside world through its inherent individual style that taints in a certain way its emotional, motivational, cognitive and communicative qualities. Integration of initially amorphous, poorly structured properties takes place under the powerful influence of the environment, i.e., that society, where historical and cultural fundamentals, ethics, morals and ethical principles has become entrenched and regular. However, the effect of society is mediated by *individual stylistic characteristics* of person in its own way [6].

It should be mentioned that the individuality is the same conditional denotation as the body, the individual or the personality. At the current stage of scientific knowledge, differentiation of these abstract concepts does not contradict the general trend towards integration of the efforts in the study of peculiar personal properties. Pretty insidious trap consists as in danger of the reduction to one another of different-level concepts such as psychological to physiological, as well as in integration of categories from the same ontological plane. The last remark is particularly relevant in view of the analysis of *the status of personal properties*, which are the main catalyst for the coordination and integration in the system of *integral individuality*. Personality structures synthesize in themselves the influence of ontogenetic and phylogenetic tendencies and become the main factor of individual variability, what, on the one hand, “associates with an active influence of the social personality traits on the structural and dynamic features of the individual and is their genetic resource” [7] and, on the other hand, secures functioning of the individuality as a complex system that is characterized by self-developing and “balance of the basic effects of internal and external interaction – optimality, balancing, adaptability and performance” [1].

Therefore, we consider the problem of structural and functional representation of cognitive styles on different levels of integral individuality (individual, personality and actually individuality levels) relevant and prospective.

In the wide sense, cognitive style is the typical for personality way of exploring a reality, in the narrow sense, it is an individual-specific way of processing information about its surroundings. In addition, cognitive styles were interpreted as a predilection to certain ways of intellectual behavior that are best suited to cognitive dispositions and capabilities of the certain subject.

Status of the phenomenology of cognitive style and its place in the personality structure was determined while taking into account a number of fundamental points. Cognitive styles, being characteristics of the cognitive sphere, were seen at the same time as a manifestation of personal organization as a whole, since individual (or rather, individualized) methods of information processing were found closely associated with the needs, motives, emotions, etc.

The problem of relations between personality characteristics that was presented in the writings of V.Merlin and his followers is the most extensively studied in our psychology [1]. According to the concept of integral individuality, there are multivalued connections between psychological substructures that provide autonomy of the psychological entities functioning. However, this understanding of interlevel connectedness causes difficulties in explaining as the formation process of stable preferences (individual behavioral strategies and methods of

activities) in a certain environment, as well as the peculiarity of personality functioning as a whole. The necessity of this approach was justified at some stage in the development of ideas about individuality of a person. However, researchers, working within this school, describe only the most common characteristics of intraindividual combination derived by activities.

There is a very productive hypothesis of V. Merlin about style as system forming component that manifests as a mechanism of internal and external junction of individual properties. But it should be complemented by the thesis about the existence of the basis, which limits the diversity of stylistic expressions of individuality. As such can act temperament (NS properties), understood in a broad sense as the basic formal and dynamic individuality characteristic. It should be noted that this approach to understanding the role of determined by nature personal qualities comes into conflict with some ideas of V. Merlin about the mechanisms of interlevel connections in the structure of psychological qualities. At the same time, there is a very valuable thesis that the analysis of the interaction of biological, psychological and social levels of individuality was associated with an understanding of its integrated nature and the development of interaction (multimultivalued connections) of the psychological entities in its structure [5].

Cognitive styles are psychological qualities that are considered in most works among the formal dynamic properties; however, they look like the most promising in solving the problem of the integration of cognitive and affective processes, dynamic and notional in the individuality structure.

The close relationship of cognitive styles with biological factors, such as age, gender, peculiarities of the functioning of the nervous system, indicates their connection with the basic, individual personality characteristics. So, cognitive constants vary with age, with different styles showing different age dynamics. At preschool age, children tend to be field dependent, then there is an increase of field independence (its peak is in teenage and young age), followed by a gradual increase of field dependence to old age. Similarly there is a gradual increase in rigidity of cognitive control to old age. On the other hand, reflexivity increases with age. Moreover, elderly people use the same broad categories as representatives of college-age [8].

As for the sex factor, the girls and women are more field dependent than boys and men. Perhaps more pronounced field dependence of women can be explained as by biological (specialization of women and men in their biological functions determines their conservative or search behavior), as well as by social (type of the education of girls and expectations regarding normative behavior of women clearly contribute to the formation of field dependent behavioral style) determinants.

The connections of cognitive styles with personal psychophysiological characteristics, including temperament, are of interest too. Field independence and a wide equivalence range correlates with high level of orientation response (in a magnitude of alpha rhythm dispersion) and its fast attenuation, and with introversion and predominance of second signal ways of processing information. On the contrary, field dependence and narrow equivalence range combines with relatively low level of orientation response and its long attenuation, as well as extraversion and prevalence of first signal method of information processing [9].

Genetic studies of cognitive styles, which are extremely non-numerous, touch mainly on the following style properties as impulsivity/reflexivity (I/R) and field dependence/field independence (FD/FID). In the study of I/R any significant influence of genotype on the variability of this cognitive style is usually not confirmed [10].

As for FD/FID, the findings are more unambiguous: it is suggested that the genotype determines 50% of the variability of this style. The other half of the dispersion FD/FID is defined by different parameters of the environment. In the Moscow twins longitudinal study, there were compared indicators of the FD/FID and intelligence by children of 6, 7 and 10 years. Genetic correlations, calculated between these indices, were increasing with age, but

did not exceed the value of 0.59. According to the authors, this result testifies that FD/FID approaches in the development intelligence with mechanisms, underlying its regulation, but retains some specificity [10].

The connection of cognitive styles to psychodynamic characteristics of an integrated individuality, including temperament, is informative [11]. The derived facts indicate that cognitively complex individuals possess more social plasticity, higher social rate and less emotionality in the social sphere (in terms of the questionnaire of V.M.Rusalov).

The undisputable participation of biological determinants in the formation of mechanisms of stylistic behavior does not exclude the same undeniable impact of social and cultural factors on the stylistic features of the behavior. Several studies have shown that certain cognitive styles are influenced by culture. J.Berry compared the expression intensity of FD/FID style by Temne people in Africa and Eskimos. The facts showed that FID was expressed by the Eskimos, while FD by the Africans. The differences may be caused as by factors like habitat features (Eskimos live in the Arctic homogeneous environment that encourages them to develop FID behavioral style, whereas Africans live in tropical multistructured environment, which leads to an increase in FD), as well as by actor of leading activity (Eskimos are hunters, while Africans are mainly engaged in agriculture) [10].

As the experimental data shows, the functioning of cognitive style is provided by mechanisms that mediate the interrelation of parameters of different psychological entities: temperament/intelligence, character/abilities, abilities/temperament, temperament/character. Specificity of connectedness is revealed at different levels of individuality organization – from biochemical to interpersonal. It can be said that the research on the status of cognitive style in the structure of an integral individuality showed its intermediate position between the above-mentioned psychological entities. This paragraph of the interpretation is inevitably associated with the development of a formal approach in differential psychology. Some features of formal approach are peculiar to virtually all studies in the field of personal style.

Cognitive style features form an approximately equal number of links with temperament and character scales, while only six significant correlations were found between indicators of temperament and character, which is an evidence, on the one hand, of differences in the degree of “proximity/distance” of studied properties, and, on the other hand, confirms the thesis of the intermediary function of style. Study of the factorial structure of the analyzed features showed that patterns “style/character” (18) and “style/temperament” (22) are more stable (“close”) combinations than “temperament/character” (6).

So, the detected intermediary function of cognitive style joins the characteristics of different individuality substructures – individual (temperament) and personality (character), as due to the very nature of stylistic symptom complex, its biological and social determination [1].

The stylistic approach asserts the possibility of explanation of personality and its psychological and social characteristics by analyzing features of its cognitive organization. Moreover, some authors consider cognitive style (particularly FD/FID) as personal property [11].

One of the strangest results in the research of cognitive styles lies in the existence of numerous and diverse relationships between *cognitive style parameters and personality characteristics*. M.Holodna, one of the most striking modern researchers on the problems of cognitive styles, says: “Let us reflect on this situation! On the operational level one uses fairly simple procedures to measure different cognitive styles, which are aimed at identifying seemingly separate individual differences in cognitive activities (the speed of finding of the simple parts in complex figures, interference level of verbal-linguistic and sensory-perceptual functions, relying on narrow or broad categories of the understanding of reality, the accuracy of perceptual scanning, etc.). However, these individual differences in cognitive activity are associated with a wide range of various psychological characteristics of individuality, beginning with sensorimotor activity and ending with psychological defense mechanisms”

[11, p.265]. According to the author, the fact of such deep involvement of cognitive styles in personal organization is an additional argument in favor of an assumption of the special role of style properties in the regulation of mental activity.

M.Holodna finds in this sense the striking contrast with IQ, which has been associated with a small number of personality traits and characteristics of social behavior at the level of empirical studies. The implication is that the value of IQ, which is determined by the success indices of traditional psychometric tests of intelligence, has a very indirect relation to the regulation of person's mental life. From this perspective, cognitive style parameters are more referential indicator of the level of its intellectual maturity [11].

We will briefly discuss *the analysis of the connection of cognitive styles to personality characteristics*.

Field independent personalities show high autonomy, stable self-image, low interest in other people, resistance to suggestion, criticism, competence and estrangement. According to the results of the Cattell's questionnaire, field dependence correlated with personality traits like sociability, cheerfulness, depending on the group. At the same time, if the TAT presented pictures depicting aggression field dependent people expressed aggression in their ideas and experiences more quickly and directly. The field dependent people had also more pronounced risk appetite as a result of their tendency to avoid uncertainty. In this regard, there is an interesting fact, denoted by H.Witkin, that field dependent subjects dominated among the prisoners (i.e., those who have committed a crime) [11].

A narrow range of equivalence has been associated with increased anxiety, and perhaps anxiety of the "analysts" is evidence of their mistrust, suspicion, centrality on their Self (factor L by Cattell). Further, analysts show the prevailing emotions of fear, while synthetics show the emotions of anger [8]. A narrow range of equivalence is positively associated with self-control factor and negatively with factor of self-sufficiency (by Cattell). In other words, analysts tend to perform social demands well and are oriented at social approval.

Persons with *rigid cognitive control* estimated themselves as excitable, sensitive and labile, they are less resistant to interferences (by having to remember with the noise, the results of patients with high interference worsen, while by those with low interference may even improve). To this can be added, that the effect of interference is positively associated with neuroticism. In addition, rigid individuals demonstrate less patience in situations of interference that occurs in the course of task execution, but at the same time they show a higher level of commitment to overcome this obstacle [11].

People who are intolerant to unrealistic experience have higher levels of anxiety, apparently because they are not ready to accept information that contradicts their initial expectations, knowledge and purposes.

In a situation of stress "narrow scanners" use such psychological defenses as repression and denial (i.e., refusal to accept the traumatic experience or its distortion). On the contrary "wide scanners" while perceiving the emotional situation are focused on fixing its objective details rather than on their subjective impression of the situation.

The concrete/abstract conceptualization is the most clearly manifested in the differences of social orientation of people. O.Harvey, D.Hunt, H.Schroder identified four levels of conceptual system organization, depending on the degree of differentiation and integration of concepts (measure of its "conceptual complexity" growth). These four levels of "conceptual complexity" correspond to different social orientations:

Level 1 – positive orientation on social referents (e.g., religious or institutional authorities), goodwill, conformal type of behavior (pole "specificity");

Level 2 – negative orientation on the same social referents, resistance to social norms of behavior, active opposition to authority, expressions of aggression and negativity (intermediate level);

Level 3 – orientation on amicable (attractive) relationships with other people in an attempt to avoid the feeling of helplessness and fear of social isolation, developed skills of communication partner manipulation (intermediate level);

Level 4 – orientation on its own inner experience in understanding what is happening, the prevalence of cognitive orientation, orientation to evaluate others on their competence (pole “abstraction”) [12].

At the same time, there is data, according to which cognitively complex workers are considered by their colleagues to be more capable of understanding the communication partners. Individuals with high cognitive complexity are perceived as more attractive in social and physical terms, while cognitively simple are preferred in business contacts. Cognitively simple individuals are more positive about themselves and their friends, emphasize their similarity to them more. In contrast, cognitively complex individuals are more critical in perceiving themselves and other people, noting more differences between themselves and their friends. There is the study of particular interest, which registered a negative correlation between the degree of cognitive complexity and level of social intelligence (under the technique of Sullivan) [11].

There is introduced the model of an integrated personality, in which styles are considered as mediators that combine cognitive and emotional characteristics of the subject. The style system acts as an integrator of cognitive and affective areas, thereby making the impact on individual properties such as the image of the world, self-image and lifestyle [13].

Empirically and theoretically postulated relationships of separate stylistic parameters with a variety of personality traits and characteristics of social behavior can be explained by considering the nature of cognitive styles associated with the formation of the mechanism of involuntary intellectual control (in the form of latitude and intensity of perceptual scanning, context structuring, implicit conditioning abilities, connection to the process of information processing, system of concepts of varying degrees of generality, efficient changes of cognitive schemes under the influence of unusual information, regulation of participation measure of the affective experience in acts of cognitive mapping, etc.).

Conclusion. Cognitive styles as metacognitive formations characterize, firstly, the ability to build objectified mental representations of reality and, secondly, the ability to self-regulate their affective states. Accordingly, a measure of the expression intensity of stylistic characteristics, as one might expect, identifies potential of objectification in the estimates, opinions, attitudes and actions of person, which is why cognitive styles are associated with such a wide range as individual characteristics, as well as personality traits and characteristics of social behavior of the individuality.

Thus in the context of cognitive-style approach, the individuality is the result of a complex interaction of biological and sociocultural factors, and cognitive styles are one of the determinants that perform a through regulation of behavior at all levels of an integrated individuality.

A review of researches on cognitive styles shows that stylistic parameters correlate with a diverse array of psychological personality characteristics from peculiarities of sensorimotor activities to peculiar psychological defences. The very fact of such relationships confirms the special role of cognitive styles in the regulation of mental activity of the individuality at different stages of its ontogeny.

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У статті представлено результати системного аналізу когнітивно-стильового підходу до диференціації когнітивних і особистісних характеристик інтегральної індивідуальності як цілісної ієрархічної системи. Когнітивні стилі розглядаються як один із рівнів детермінації індивідуальних відмінностей і регуляторів поведінки особистості.

Ключові слова: когнітивні стилі, індивідуальний стиль, стильова сфера особистості, диференціація, особистісні риси, індивідні відмінності, особистісні відмінності, ідіографічний підхід.

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Віра Мотрюк

ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ПСИХОЛОГІЧНОЇ ПІДГОТОВКИ МЕДИЧНИХ ПРАЦІВНИКІВ ДЛЯ РОБОТИ В ДИТЯЧИХ ЛІКУВАЛЬНО-ПРОФІЛАКТИЧНИХ ЗАКЛАДАХ

У статті викладені основні психологічні питання, які повинні бути враховані під час роботи з хворими дітьми та їх родичами. Головним завданням медичного персоналу дитячої лікувально-профілактичної установи є створення сприятливих умов для емоційного розвитку дитини, формування її зрілості. Турботливе, уважне ставлення до дитини, намагання зрозуміти її, розділити її почуття в багатьох випадках допомагають відновленню соматичного здоров'я та покращенню самопочуття дитини.

Ключові слова: діти, психологія роботи, медична сестра, лікар.

Будь-які заняття з дітьми, будь-яка зв'язана з ними діяльність, у тому числі й догляд за хворою дитиною, потребують багато професійних знань і вміння розбиратися в основах психології дитячого віку. Поведінка медичного працівника, яка правильна з точки зору психічного здоров'я дитини й відповідає цій меті, тепер уже необхідна не тільки в лікарнях, але й в інших лікувально-профілактичних закладах. Базою діяльності медичних працівників дитячих установ повинні бути не тільки професійні знання та навички, а й знання головних питань психології, педагогіки, виховання. Усе це в комплексі сприяє вихованню дітей зі здоровою нервовою системою, вихованню здорової дитячої особистості.

В основі лікувального процесу лежить довіра між пацієнтом і медичним працівником. Підвищення довіри пацієнта до лікаря та медичної сестри й задоволення його від якості медичної допомоги можна досягнути лише шляхом підвищення професійних знань, практичних навичок і вмінь не тільки у сфері медичній, а також у психологічній площині. Це стосується й міжособистісних комунікацій між пацієнтом і медичним персоналом [1; 2].