



Saint Petersburg State University

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Report of the member of Thesis Council on the Thesis

“The Impact of Psychological Separation on the Social Adaptation of the Individual”

Submitted for the completion of a scientific degree of candidate of psychological sciences

in Specialty 19.00.05 - Social Psychology

by Dityuk Anastasia Alexandrovna

at Saint Petersburg State University

It is a pleasure to write this recommendation letter for acceptance of the scientific degree of candidate of psychological sciences submitted by Dityuk Anastasia Alexandrovna.

General description

The dissertation analyzes and integrates the complex phenomenon and the processes of psychological separation with identifying connections between multilevel and multicomponent structures of person's psychological separation and person's social adaptation. This thesis addresses the highly relevant and vital areas of current research in the developing area of personality and social psychology.

The dissertation consists of three main chapters that are thematically coordinated integral parts of the dissertation. Eight individual publications do exist based on the cited references during 2013-2017.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, main chapters, inferences and conclusions. The thesis is well structured and correctly presented. There are both a Russian and English part of the dissertation, whereby the thesis is written in good English utilizing suitable academic terminology (with minor correctional mistakes). The dissertation comprises 149 pages in each language version and four appendixes following the classic structure of thesis in science in a form of the monographic dissertation. Theoretical and methodological basis of the research are works of leading authors as well as references from valid and relevant scientific literature based on 236 sources for the discussed field. The key conclusions of the dissertation research are substantiated by overwhelming empirical data and stem from the research body. The dissertation has a clear contribution and interesting results and addresses an important issue. No major criticism regarding the overall quality of the work I should like to move on to the specific areas of dissertation with some issues which could be addressed to specify some issues through academical discussion.

Introduction

Introduction to the main text is proper including the general theoretical and methodological foundations of the study highlighting the importance of the issue and the relevance of the research topic. This part is well written and provides a good background for understanding the rest of the thesis. The (general) purpose and (specific) objectives of the dissertation research have explained and as well as hypothesis of the research have presented, whereby the first hypothesis seems to cover large area than included in the content of hypothesis.

In the addressing the complex issue utilizing in the whole dissertation could be useful to bring more theoretical and/or empirical explanation of the term “phenomenological picture” as a framework of the dissertation.

Some key terms laid out in the purpose of the dissertation and have followed across dissertation need to be explained theoretically and/or empirically more openly though the dissertation/dissertation defending process: In the Russian part of the dissertation term “личност” is used across the dissertation, but in the English part of the dissertation parallel terms “individual/person/personality/personality of the individual” are used; and in the Russian part of the dissertation synonyms for term “влияние” are “impact/effect” in the English part of the dissertation (last mentioned terms are connected with experimental study design assessing causal relationship between variables).

Main body

Chapters 1 is theoretical background of the research, chapter 2 is methodological and chapter 3 performed the research process and its results. The thesis is inspired from both of the theoretical and methodological point of view. Author represents the ideas and knowledge with sufficient theoretical background. Ten used research methods are appropriate to the aims and hypothesis formulated in the thesis.

First chapter introduces and critically discusses theories proposed in the field containing original contributions to the field - the Author accomplishes her own adaptation of the theoretical model in order to apply it in further chapters to classify instruments for measuring different aspects of psychological separation. The literature review is concise, covering the main relevant theories and empirical studies in the field of study. It is the evidence of the deep theoretical knowledge and good orientation in the problem discussed in the thesis. Theories and explanatory model introduced to obtain the research aims are solid and well located. The Author gives definitions of two hierarchically connected key phenomenon under study – “psychological separation” and “psychological separation from the parents” rising a question of the differences in these concepts, especially in the area of cognitive component.

The second main part of the thesis is methodological consisting of three sub-chapters. In general, the coverage of the development of the methodology and the research design is thoughtful and coherent. The most important thing is that the Author succeed in connection of ten research methods of analysis of the research material with validating one of the measurement instruments (the Adult Separation Anxiety Questionnaire) based on a large dataset in order to assess the quality of the instrument showing the author’s high level of research expertise and impressive command of empirical methodology.

The Author had to have a good command of the subject matter, both theoretically and in terms of empirical techniques for data collection and analysis. It would be useful to have a fuller discussion of ethical standards and rules of good scientific practice adhered to.

As consequential thought, a question for the candidate might be related to more in-depth information regarding the description of the research instruments pointing out exact names and original sources of the used and previously adapted instruments: Psychological Separation Inventory (Hoffman, 1984); Family Sociogram (Eidemiller & Yustiskits, 1999); Analysis of Family Anxiety (AFA; Eidemiller & Yustiskits, 1999; why the author used acronym: AST?); Sack’s Sentence Completion Test (Sacks & Levy, 1950); Relationship Profile Test (RPT; Bornstein & Languirand, 2003); Ways of Coping Questionnaire (WCQ;

Folkman & Lazarus, 1988), whereby the source of the method of determining the status of personal identity and the coding of the data gathering with this instrument are not given in the text with sufficient comprehensiveness.

The results are well presented in the Chapter 3 with the appropriate statistical analysis and their interpretation is at a high scientific level demonstrating a solid understanding of the research field.

Inferences

This chapter summarizes the executed and fulfilled tasks of the dissertation and main findings of the dissertation research confirming that the (general) purpose and (specific) objectives of the dissertation research were successfully obtained.

Conclusion

The conclusion summarizes briefly the main results of the whole dissertation based on research hypothesis with highlights to the contribution of the thesis, and also some notices of the limitations, showing a general comprehensive understanding of the context of the whole dissertation topic.

Overall, the dissertation by Dityuk Anastasia Alexandrovna is completed and independently executed scientific research and publications presenting new ideas and debates for cross-branch scholars. The dissertation research "The Impact of psychological separation on the social adaptation of the individual" by Dityuk Anastasia Alexandrovna presented for the degree of candidate of psychological sciences meets the qualification requirements of candidate dissertations on specialty 19.00.05 - Social Psychology.



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