

REVIEW

on Sergey Ivanovich Dyakov's thesis on a theme

"Semantics of subjectness in mental self-organization of the personality", the doctor of psychological sciences represented for a scientific degree competition in the specialty 5.3.1. General psychology, psychology of the personality, psychology history.

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As a member of the defense committee for the dissertation of Sergey Ivanovich Dyakov, I was invited to prepare an opinion on the topic Semantics of subjectness in mental self-organization of the personality. For this purpose, I have received the text of the mentioned dissertation in the original Russian language and the same text translated in English. Below I will express my academic opinion in a structured way, within the framework of the particular thematic headings.

(1) Relevance of the chosen subject, originality of the study, its social necessity, and its practical contribution.

The topic of the submitted dissertation, Semantics of subjectivity in mental self-organization of personality, has a stable theoretical and empirical background especially in personality psychology, social psychology, clinical psychology or psychological axiology. I see the relevance and originality of the chosen dissertation project in epistemological, research, practical and social aspects. A relevant scientific grasp of the presented problem requires a complex epistemological integration of the main dynamic factors of the subjective space of self-conception and self-determination of the personality, in which the psychological approach is one of the important, but not independent of other related scientific disciplines, such as philosophy, sociology, cultural anthropology, etc. The exploratory relevance of the chosen dissertation topic implies a research design that continues in a solid empirical tradition of psychological research on the semantic space of subjectivity. This type of relevance also requires a careful preparation of methodological conditions for the implementation and validation of a new method of semantic mapping and modeling of psychological self-organization of personality. If this condition is fulfilled, then we can talk about the significant potential of the present doctoral project for a wide range of applications of the semantic method not only in psycho-diagnostic or counselling practice. The social dimension of the psychological understanding of the semantics of subjectivity in the agentic personality is of universal importance, especially in the contemporary conditions of life dictated by neoliberal ideology. The globalization process and its practice is associated with the advanced disintegration of traditional and moral values, which brings with it serious social problems such as the dominant consumer culture, the phenomenon of increasing alienation, etc. At the individual level, the problem of distorted subjectivity is simultaneously manifested in an increase in borderline disorders, with the typical confusion in the experience of one's own

identity and disorganization of the personality in emotional, motivational and volitional processes. In that context, I expect that the present dissertation will provide a deeper psychological understanding of subjective experience and will offer a pathway for applying theoretical and empirical findings to use in practice.

(2) The Level and Quality of the Doctoral Thesis (overview of the knowledge). Independence of the elaboration, insight of the author into the problem, literature background, the use of databases, and foreign literature.

When I began to study Dr. Sergey Dyakov's doctoral thesis, I initially felt that it was a very ambitious work. Gradually, however, I became convinced that the author was realizing what is at the cutting edge of personality psychology - namely, the study of the importance of subjectivity in the process of personality self-organization seems to be an absolutely necessary topic across the various psychological disciplines. I have been increasingly impressed by the erudite and sophisticated way in which the doctoral candidate realizes the explorations of the relationships between relevant psychological constructs and complex reality in the dynamic interaction between intra-subjectivity and extra-subjectivity.

The dissertation contains a total of 447 A4 pages, typed with line 1,5 including a reference list and appendices. The list of literature includes 417 entries of scientific sources on the topic in several languages. The list of references also includes 52 of the author's studies related to the research topic. The author has divided the present work into 5 main chapters and a system of subchapters, which together form a consistent logical system. First of all, in the introduction he gives an overview of the main paradigms of research on the subjective foundations of personality self-organization, which is backed by the leading domestic and foreign researchers on the semantic concept of personality. There he explicitly defines the objectives, subject matter, methodological procedures, main research hypotheses, as well as the expected theoretical and practical contributions of his study.

The central focus of the first chapter is the construct of personality self-organization in a broader psychological context. After outlining the social and humanistic framework of the analysis, it follows a review of the main philosophical and sociological considerations on the concepts of personality, subjectivity, and purposiveness, which are naturally linked to numerous psychological concepts. Here, the findings of domestic and foreign psychologists, especially those of psychodynamic, humanistic, existential or positive psychology, come to the fore. The author does not neglect to discuss the main psychological mechanisms of personality, especially the higher self-regulatory and self-governing developmental systems, while postulating a semantic analysis of experience as the most appropriate research approach. In this sense, he gives a brief overview of the taxonomy of semantic space, significant for the semantic analysis of personality, with which the work of numerous cognitive psychologists, phenomenologists and personality scientists is associated. I have no substantive or formal comments on this chapter.

In the second chapter, the author focuses on semantic theory and methodology in modelling the structure and mechanisms of psychological self-management of personality. He sets out the

theoretical framework of the interpretation in line with research in the fields of subjective semantics and psycho-semantics, on the basis of which he establishes the core semantic principle in the PSO system. This introductory prologue is followed by a discussion of the methodological significance of the semantic approach in PSO research. Here the author notes the broad context of socialization and intrapsychic factors of a person's self-image that must be included in the semantic analysis of personal identity. A discussion of verbalization follows, and in particular the role of speech, words, and other linguistic forms important in the socialization development of cognition. Here, the author correctly emphasizes the dual importance of verbalization in the formation of subjectivity and the mental self-organization of personality: (1) the encoding and decoding of information as a condition of higher cognitive and executive self-regulation, and (2) the symbolic and communicative quality of the personality's intentional expression in relation to the external world. To the above, he defines an exhaustive list of 16 basic functions in the system of mental self-management of personality, starting with the signal function and ending with the volitional function. The subchapter Semantic modelling of subjectivity in psychological self-organization of personality is conceived in accordance with the delineated meaning of models of semantic networks, whose role does not end with mere storage of information, but primarily consists in conceptualization (and self-conception). This is a key argument for the development and implementation of semantic research on the psychological constructs of subjectivity and self-concept. In the following, the author demonstrates his ability to observe the issue of semantic research on personality in a broader context and especially in relation to the concepts of subject, self-actualization, self-experience or self-identification ("I"; me"), and so forth, which have been thoroughly or marginally addressed by most psychologists, both theoretically and empirically. At the forefront, he emphasizes the conclusions of various researchers about the hierarchical nature of subjective experience, from which he identifies the main principles and features necessary for the semantic modelling of subjectivity. From my point of view, I consider the discussion of relevant models of semantic analysis of personality to be important, and this is the content of the final subsection of Theoretical Methods of Research in Semantic Modeling of Subjectivity in the Mental Self-Organization of the Individual. It is evident that the doctorate is close to introspective, phenomenological or cognitive orientations in psychological research on subjectivity, he points out the epistemological limits of the different approaches formulated by the theories under consideration, and proceeds here by following the principle of scientific correctness and objectivity. As a result, the author proposes a model of semantic research on personality in which he has included two key principles of subjectivity: structural-organizational and functional-activity aspects. The foregoing interpretation of the second chapter is without fault.

The third chapter presents the development and use of methodological tools for the semantic analysis of subjectivity in self-organized personality. The topic includes an explication of leading psychological principles, strategies, and methods for empirical research on the subjective space of personality. The stages of the organizing the psychological research, implemented in the pedagogical space of selected regions of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as a description of the characteristics of the psychological methods used, statistical methods and

criteria for evaluating the results are defined. Special attention is paid to the self-assessment provided by the method of semantic differential of Ch. Osgood and a corresponding method of evaluation of the Self construct by C. Rogers. The statistical exploration of subjectivity was supported by correlation analysis, and subsequently a number of semantic constructs (factors) and their correlations were verified. The logical outcome is the following standardization of the semantic model and other techniques of analysis and evaluation of subjectivity, which complement the structural model of subjectivity with further personality constructs. It is appreciated that in the final summary of this chapter the author has sublimated the main empirical findings and implications of the statistical analysis on the semantic space of subjectivity. I have no objections to this chapter either.

After the discussion of the theoretical foundations of the analysis and methodological assumptions of the developing semantic research of personality using relevant research methods, the attention of the doctoral candidate in the fourth chapter focuses on other relevant topics, especially on the analysis of the complex dynamics of group, motivational, value and other semantic mechanisms of self-organization in accordance with the postulated concept of personality as the highest self-regulating and self-governing system (PSO). The goal, in the author's words, is „to construct a semantic model that empirically substantiates the structural and functional properties of a given PSO construct, and then to define relevant criteria and methods for analyzing and evaluating the above-mentioned system.“ In this sense, the research and the main results of the semantic analysis of selected dynamic concepts of the psyche, especially in the deeper areas of the moral volitional and value autonomy of the socialized subject, are presented in each subchapter. The central output of the semantic analysis is the empirical modelling of the domain of individual subjectivity, which follows the pioneering work of representatives of the trait (dispositional or factorial), typological, structural-hierarchical or existential phenomenological traditions. There is no doubt that in this chapter the author has succeeded in presenting valid arguments that the semantic analysis of the empirical modeling of PSO helps to answer the traditional questions of personality psychology, namely "what" is the subjectivity (the generic and level structure of personality), "how" processes within the personality take place (the nature of interactions between internal personality factors), and especially "why", namely, understanding, clarifying, regulating or also predicting the processes and manifestations of the person (with the knowledge of his/her constitutional, emotional, motivational-volitional, intentional and socio-cultural factors). I have no comments to make on this chapter.

In the last chapter, space is devoted to research on the semantic principles and mechanisms of the self-organized subject. As already discussed in the previous chapters, the concept of PSO postulates a relatively stable and clear psychosocial structure of factors which at the same time have a dynamic nature, influencing consciously but also unconsciously the psychosocial being of the conscious and intentional subject. The subsequent definition and analysis of the semantic principles and mechanisms of the self-directed subject is based on the results of a diverse psychological methodology (observation, introspection, etc.) of research on various layers and qualities of subjectivity (feeling, thinking, speech, self-assessment, self-concept), dimensions of personality (e.g. J. Rotter's I-E construct), including research on motivation (needs, motives),

values (means - goals). When it comes to a deeper understanding of the subject, the interest and research interdependence of personality psychology with clinical practice (psycho-diagnostics and psychotherapy) and other disciplines is presented. Here, the author demonstrates a gift for critical thinking as well as the ability to formulate a conceptual basis for the development of a concept that could be both the subject and methodological basis for research and psychological or therapeutic interventions. An example of this is the presented semantic model of the hierarchical system of self-organized personality (Figure 5.5.1.1, p. 306 in the Russian version of the dissertation), as well as the delineation of a number of semantic principles of PSO within the categories of structural-organizational and functional-dynamic outlines of subjectivity.

(3) Formal processing, language and stylistic level, graphic design, compliance with publication standards.

The dissertation is covered by a large number of sources, citation standards have been respected. I noticed only minor shortcomings, namely, in the original (Russian) version the Excel program is incorrectly labeled (on p. 141 it is stated "Exel"), also some English names are incorrectly mentioned (e.g. S. Freud - "Z. Freud", C. Rogers - "K. Rogers", E. Thorndike - "E. Torndayk", etc.).

Overall, I rate the work as above standard. The linguistic and stylistic level is excellent, the work is of high quality and carefully prepared from all standpoints. From my point of view, this is a scientific work that deserves to be compiled and published in book form for the professional and wider reading public.

(4) Conclusion

Any academic work that is based on a theoretical-critical analysis of sources and claims that generalize certain knowledge or assumptions requires a progression from the reproduction of opinions through their reconstruction to the interpretation or internal and external critique of the ideas, opinions and knowledge analyzed. The author has documented this erudition in the key chapters of this doctoral study, thus proving that he meets the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Psychological Science.

I am of the opinion that the submitted dissertation has in all aspects fulfilled the expected objectives I outlined in the first section of my review, namely to deepen the psychological understanding of personality subjectivity and to use the theoretical and empirical findings for further research and practice in relevant areas of psychology.

With this review, I express my conviction that it is justified to propose to the Scientific Council of St. Petersburg State University to continue the doctoral proceedings of Sergey Ivanovich Dyakov, and, assuming a successful defense, to award him the degree of Doctor of Psychological Sciences.

Sergey Ivanovich Dyakov's thesis on a theme: "Semantics of subjectness in mental self-organization of the personality" conforms to the main requirements established by the Order of 19.11.2021 No. 11181/1 "About an Order of Award of Academic Degrees in St. Petersburg State University", the applicant Sergey Ivanovich Dyakov deserves award of an academic degree of the doctor of psychological sciences on scientific specialty 5.3.1. General psychology, psychology of the personality, psychology history. Violations of Paragraphs 9 and 11 of the specified Order in the thesis are not established.

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