

Preparedness for Disclosing a Cognitive Contradiction as a Characteristic of the Initiative Behaviour

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Preparedness for disclosing the contradictions is traditionally considered in psychology of thinking as one of the most typical demonstrations of a creative, intellectual activity of a person which reflects the ability for spontaneous, initiative, above normative going beyond the borders of an existing situation and challenging the limits of the given requirements.

Longitudinal research carried out by the author with various age and professional groups allows us to argue that preparedness for disclosing the problems (the so-called “sensitivity to problems”) is determined by the peculiarities of the emotional-attitudinal sets which represent some unity in which emotions and values constitute a new integrative quality. Psychological nature of such a unity lies in the fact that the basic, major mechanism of an initiative transformation of a current activity in a proper creative one occurs through this mechanism and on its basis. Behavioral reactions demonstrated by a person in the process of an initiative shift of an activity up to a new, more productive for realization of the new opportunities level of an activity are defined by us as a manifestation of the initiative behaviour. A set of research techniques was developed to identify peculiarities of the connection between emotional activation, registered by means of the galvanic skin response (GSR), and operational, situational level of behaviour and activity at which in particular emerge the forces prompting a person to fulfill their life in the particular sectors of their life space.

There is empirical evidence gathered over the last years that the development of sensitivity to problems as a sustainable personal quality occurs in the process of the transformation of system-determined new psychological

formations, appearing at the micro stages of real life activities, into macro stages of a developing personality. The potential of self-actualization at the stages of initiation and dynamization of a thinking activity is fulfilled through various value-sense formations that either lead to an initiative goal-setting (or various forms of “avoiding” it), or declare themselves through the peculiarities of dynamics, selectivity and sustainability of the intermediate goal-setting. Moreover, as the thinking task is being set (goal-setting and defining conditions), e.g. as thinking activity proceeds to the stage of dynamization, potential of self-realization declares itself through the peculiarities of the intermediate goal-setting: through the persistence with which a person reaches the solution to the problem, restructures the search, puts forward new intermediate goals and options. Senses and values, being the special dimensions of a person’s multidimensional world, are reflected through emotions and become existent: emotions determine transportation of what has a special sense and meaning for a person “here and now” into consciousness. Disclosing a cognitive contradiction for some people means an opportunity to think that has a significant value in itself, has a meaningful sense for a person; while for the others – anti-value, occurrence of a frustrating situation from which a person defends themselves through various forms of “avoiding” thinking.

In a separate research project we managed to identify the acts of thinking involvement in the processes of perception in the form of strategies of categorization and to clarify the process of an image “structuring”: which details and characteristics of an object in particular become “important” and which ones – “interfering” of “insignificant”. Thus, it was shown that the ability of a subject to disclose and resolve cognitive contradictions is determined by the strategies of categorization which are being realized already at the stage of perception by a subject of the offered stimulus. Empirical data allows us to claim that the preferred strategies of categorization in the process of perception of an unknown object influence the process of singling out and objectivation of a cognitive contradiction in a potentially problematic situation, determining the behaviour of a subject in these situations.

Studies in the field of a person's abilities for initiative goal-setting, sense-making, motive-forming in the context of understanding the innovative potential of a person as a response to demands of the innovative educational practices, the real sector of economy and businesses for efficient psychological technologies of developing motivation for the innovative behaviour are becoming of great significance and relevance.

In the series of researches, carried out under our guidance in 2007-2009, there were revealed interesting correlations between general sensitivity to problems and preferred coping strategies among the young people who have experience in being involved into the innovative activity within the framework of the program "Participant of the Youth Scientific-Innovative Contest" (supported by the fund "Support for the Development of Small-scale Businesses in the Scientific-technical Sector"). The young people who are characterized by the high level of sensitivity to problems, as a rule, demonstrate prevalence of the strategy of "ignoring" as a strategy of defending from the negative emotions, negative feelings which interfere with concentrating on the solution to the problem, and a strategy "the analysis of a problem", that might be the evidence of their ability to get involved initiatively into the resolving of the existing complicated situation.

Predominance of the strategy "attributing sense" increases as the degree of sensitivity to problems grows. The strategy "attributing sense" is an indicator of innovativeness of the young people characterized by the high level of sensitivity to problems. Attributing sense to complicated life circumstances by the young people with the high level of sensitivity to problems reflects their understanding of a problem situation not as determined by the environment and disturbing their habitual state, but as something that has a sense for their life fulfillment, self-actualization and self-development. If participants with the high level of sensitivity to problems are inclined to assign a special sense to problem situations, then the participants with the low level of sensitivity to problems are prone to self-regulation of the disturbed emotional state and recovering its balance. The attitude towards difficult situations not as to a person's problems which "are to be resolved

here and now”, but as to some “indication” of the necessity to focus on recovery of the disturbed emotional state, on restoring the balance is rather prominent among this category of the young people who are involved into the innovative activity. They are much more concentrated on their current state and most often go back to their past in the dynamics of the resolution of a complicated situation, thus not acquiring new resources, not reaching out for the new parameters of their own life activities. It is indicative that the lower the sensitivity to problems is, the less dominant becomes the strategy of seeking help from the other people in order to solve a problem.

A series of researches is being successfully carried out. The goal is to identify peculiarities of the correlation between an existent resource constituent of the innovative potential (opportunities as such – cognitive, creative etc.) and its attitudinal constituent. The latter functions as potencies, as different degrees of prominence of the preparedness to fulfill them here and now. There is good reason to believe that the preparedness for disclosing cognitive contradictions can be considered as one of the crucial components of the attitudinal constituent of the innovative potential of a personality.