



Future image spatio-temporal component features in students with different locus of control

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Abstract.

Approaches to the locus of control problem, future image in terms of life plans aggregate formation, their realization ways and methods determination studying are analysing in the article. The spatio-temporal component includes future development in space, that can be considered in terms of space range for life plans realization; organization, that is, life plans provision with means for their realization; extension of the future in time. There is shown, that the future image in students with internal locus of control is represented by a higher organization degree and a greater number of life plans, part of which is regarded as their realization means, and also that internals are more inclined to the future planning for long periods.

Key words: future image, planning, locus of control, externality, internality, student age.



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Introduction

Original personality paradigm initiated to developing in psychology in the middle of the XX century by J. Rotter [1], not only found its recognition in foreign scientists [2; 3; 4; 5], but interested a lot of Russian psychologists. S. R. Pantileev, V. V. Stolin, E. F. Bazhin, E. A. Golyunkina, A. M. Jetkind et al. apply to this phenomenon and, accordingly, notion in their researches [6; 7].

Person's affiliation to the one or another type of control localization influences his psychics and behavior different features. In internal or external locus of control the person lays responsibility on circumstances or himself for not only happened events, but also for events, that probably may occur in the future. The researches in this problematics review [8; 9; 10; 11] confirms a correlation between the subjective control level and person's life purposes and future patterning perception.

According to the E. I. Golovaha's opinion, the responsible attitude toward one's own future as perspective element is included in the mechanism forming defined locus of control [12]. In persons with internal locus of control the temporary perspective embraces considerably more distant zone and is saturated with a great number of events.

S. L. Rubinshtejn points out that not only the person depends on life, but also life depends on the person. Every person to a certain degree understands, when he can still have time to change profession, if the previously chosen career don't suit him, when it is still early or already late for him to have children etc [13]. The scientist considers the person's future conception from the position of its planning, paying attention to the fact, that life plans reflect the past, the present and the future in their succession and dialectical unity in personality life activity.

Analysing the future problem E. I. Golovaha underlines, that the life perspective is the holistic picture of the future including anticipated and programmed events, which are interrelated with life purposes, social values and life conciseness. The life plans and purposes complex can be regarded as a system with a definite structural order, and its functional meaning is regulation of the person's activity [12]. Consequently, holding this opinion towards problem of the personality life perspectives elements segregation and considering life purposes as a cross point of the past and the future, importance of the conscious future planning as one of factors influencing one's own psychological time management possibility is emphasizing [8; 14].

This phenomenon psychological content is represented in theory by M. R. Ginzburg, who points out the necessity of temporary and semantical future differentiation in its structure. In the scientist's view, «the temporary future function consists in the temporary perspective securing. The temporary perspective is a



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vision of one's own future in time or, actually, planning». As the temporary future structural components the scientist considers: «organization, that is, purposes provision with means for their achievement. It acts as organized at the positive pole (purposes are provided with means), as unorganized at the negative pole (purposes aren't provided with means). and extension (long-term at the positive pole, short-term at the negative pole)» [15, c. 50-51].

In J. Nuttin's view, the temporary perspective extension parameter is reflected in five categories: 1) near future (up to one month), 2) intermediate future (from one month to two years), 3) distant future (more than two years), 4) open present (indicating to the individual's desirable is undifferentiated both in the present and in the future), 5) historical future (like connected with purposes lying beyond the human life).

Along with the temporary aspect there is the notion in psychology introduced by S. L. Frank [16], thereafter widely used by K. Levin [17], called human living space. Continuity of these notions is reflected in spatio-temporal conceptions about one's own future.

In spite of represented views variety there is possible to note, that now the future image spatio-temporal component features in students with different locus of control studying remains out of exploratory attention. Along with it this field of psychology is represented rather significant because of the revealing person's possibilities for self-development and self-realization in the future.

Objects and methods of the research

Within the framework of the future image organization in students with the different subjective control level investigation the research including 335 1-6 year students studying at Belgorod National Research University was conducted.

The subjective control level, for which studying we used the subjective control level investigation technique (E. F. Bazhin, E. A. Golyunkina, L. M. Jetkind), acted as a criterion for dividing respondents into groups in our research. For the future image in students the with the different subjective control level studying there was proposed to respondents to state in free form and unlimited capacity their thoughts on the topic: «My future» and describe in their own words, how they see their future, plans, purposes, anticipations for the near and distant future, how they image themselves in the future.

Results and their discussion

Analysis of the subjective control individual level generalized parameter allowed to divide conditionally all taking part in the research respondents into two groups: with internal locus of control (I group), with external locus of control (II group). Group I numbered 57.6 % of students, included respondents characterizing with the high or average subjective control level tending to the high level. It



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testifies that most of significant events in their life members of this group interpret as their own actions, efforts, abilities, competence and tenacity of purpose result. They consider themselves able to manage these events, feel their own responsibility for them and also for their life developing in general. Group II numbered 42.4 % of respondents, included students characterizing with the low or average subjective control level tending to the low level. It indicates that these members of the research don't see interrelation between happening in their life important events and their own actions. They don't consider themselves capable of these events development managing, supposing, that happening with them events don't depend on them, act as the result of such external causes like other people interference, set of circumstances or chance.

The future development in space and the future extension in time were dedicated as parameters, which can characterize the future image spatio-temporal component.

In our research we proceeded on the assumption that space is the person's potential action area, and considered it possible to reveal this parameter through areas of life which each person fills with his own life plans and their realization means.

For the future development in space investigation the quantitative and qualitative analysis of sorted by circumstantiality degree essays was used. 37 categories, which are students' life plans, were separated in content of all texts. Revealed categories were divided into 6 subject groups, each of which represents a certain life area.

The conducted analysis of essays shows that students see family life, relationship with the others, material values acquisition, professional activity, studying and education, and also their own personality as the space for their plans realization.

Table 1. The future development in space in students with internal and external locus of control groups

№	An area of future space	Groups, %		φ*F-test	Statistical significance
		The 1-st group (n=193)	The 2-nd group (n=142)		
1.	Family life	82.9	72.5	2.267	p<0.05
2.	Relationship with the others	64.8	52.1	2.329	p<0.01
3.	Material values	59.1	64.1	0.933	p>0.05



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4.	Professional activity	98.9	90.1	3.933	p<0.01
5.	Studying, education	63.2	56.3	1.269	p>0.05
6.	One's own personality	93.8	85.9	2.401	p<0.01

Represented in the Table 1 data testifies that an area of family life ($\varphi=2.267$; $p<0.05$), relationship with the others ($\varphi=2.329$; $p<0.01$), professional activity ($\varphi=3.933$; $p<0.01$) and their own personality ($\varphi=2.401$; $p<0.01$) is represented in plane of space in less students with external locus of control than in students with internal locus of control. In our view, the lack of differences in the studying and education area is because of students' life targeting exactly to this activity. In our judgment, reliable differences in the material values area are absent, because their acquisition is actual for people, regardless of their personality, social, individual typological and other features.

The life plans investigation by means of the essays analysis leads to a conclusion that an important characteristic of the future image is its organization, that is, life plans provision with means for their realization.

In the course of students with the different subjective control level comparison in such parameter as the future organization, significant differences ($U=11186.0$; $p<0.01$) indicating more means for life plans realization in I group students' essays than in II group students' texts were received, consequently, their future is more organized. It leads to a conclusion that students with internal locus of control realize necessity of certain actions for the life plans realization to a greater extent. The life plans fulfilment will be hampered without concept of their realization ways. Exactly they separate futile dreams from the real implementation.

The essays analysis leads to a conclusion that internals realize to a greater extent than externals, in what way and also by means of what their life plans will be implemented. In students' with internal locus of control future descriptions it is possible to trace presence of the algorithm, each step of which has some intermediate results playing the role of next step execution means, and sequentially passing through which person achieves the desirable future, that can't be told about students' with external locus of control descriptions.

The qualitative analysis of descriptions allows to say that in students with internal locus of control the future is widely developed in the spatial plane, that is, it is presented by a large number of life plans, part of them can be regarded as means for delayed in prospective plans realization. The essays analysis testifies to the fact, that often thing, that is purpose for externals, may be just an intermediate result, one of the stages on the road toward one's own goal for internal, and besides, it probably may be a stage at the beginning of this road.



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The future image is forming as the result of mental actions, which act as deeds in the outside world algorithm ensuring the desirable image implementation. This program gradual development in the time is a sequence of certain physical actions aimed at the creation and support of a new object reflecting the desirable image in everyday life Formation a new object in reality process accordingly to the developed program is referred to as the exteriorization, that is, the desirable future image reflection in the outside world.

In our research we proceeded on the assumption that the temporary perspective is nothing more than one's own future vision in the time, and in its turn its extension is characterized by how chronologically deeply the person is able to look into the future. For description of the future extension in time essays were analysed.

In group I the following distribution of students according to the future extension in time is discovered: 22.3% of subjects describe the nearest 10 years of their life events, 16.6% – 5 years, 13.5% – 20 years, 11.4% – 15 years, 10.3% – 30 years, 7.8% – 40 years, 7.2% – 25 years, 6.2% – 35 years and 4.7% – 45 years. In group II the sample is distributed according to the future extension in time like this: 31.7% of respondents see filled with events following 5 years of their life, 16.9% – 10 years, 16.2% – 30 years, 12.7% – 15 years, 9.2% – 20 years, 5.6% – 25 years, 4.2% – 35 years, 2.8% – 40 years and 0.7% – 45 years.

The received data statistical analysis showed that in externals group the percent of students seeing filled with events following 5 years of their future equals 31.7%, that is reliably higher than in internals group – 16.6% ($\varphi=3.230$; $p<0.01$). Representatives of both groups assume this life period should be filled with such events as university completion, hobbies; they are planning to find a job and work on the personality and career growth.

The received data analysis established that there are more planning their life for longer periods 40 years – 7.8%, 45 years – 4.7% internals, than externals – 2.8% ($\varphi=2.060$; $p<0.05$) and 0.7% ($\varphi=2.418$; $p<0.01$). These students describing their future touch upon both the nearest perspectives and such distant in time events as birth of children and grandchildren, their own business foundation, retirement after experience accumulation.

In the course of students with the different subjective control level comparison in such parameter as the future extension in time, reliable differences ($U=11275.5$; $p<0.01$) were indicated. It testifies to the fact, that students from the group I are inclined to realize life prospects patterning for the distant future while students from the group II are generally planning their future for the nearest period of time.



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Therefore, we established that most of students both with internal and external locus of control see filled with events the nearest 5-10 years of their future. The distant life prospect patterning promotes determination of inter-event correlations in the future image, that is necessary condition for plans realization. The near, average and distant prospects presence in the future image can be regarded as a leading parameter of life plans maturity, in dimensions of which students with different subjective control level vary.

Conclusion

Students see family life, relationship with the others, material values acquisition, professional activity, studying and education, and also their own personality as the space for their plans realization. The future image important characteristic is its organization, in other words life plans provision with facilities for their realization. The process of future image patterning lies in the desirable realization possible means choice, both available at the present time and received in the future, and temporary series of steps creation with chosen means leading to the desirable result. People with internal locus of control are more inclined to realization of this temporary sequence including series of steps, which correspond to certain temporary intervals. It is discovered that internals are more inclined to their future planning for longer periods, in other words the subjective control level is connected with the long-term of planning, that give a possibility to a person to treat his life constructing realistically, responsibly and consciously, organizing activity time in the present so that made plans are in fact realizing in the future.

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