

O250

CONCEPTUAL STRUCTURES AND PRODUCTIVITY OF COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING

A12. General issues and basic processes - Intelligence and cognitive functioning

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Definition of intelligence in terms of its properties turned it into a catalog of cognitive functions which greatly varies in different authors. Intelligence as a holistic mental reality disappeared. We offer to pass from describing the properties of the intelligence to the issue of the nature of mental formations which "inside" determines the properties of intelligence. In terms of a new approach conceptual structures are viewed as a substratum of conceptual abilities. Conceptual (semantic, categorical, generative) abilities are central link to the structure of intelligence which is described as a form of individual mental experiences. We name this approach to the study of intelligence as ontological one. Our study aimed to reveal interrelations between the conceptual structures and productivity of different types of cognitive functioning. A multiple design was used in our research including assessment of conceptual structures (Kholodnaya, Volkova), conceptual abilities (Kholodnaya, Savin), creativity (TTCT), intelligence (SPM, WAIS, WISC), field dependence/field independence (EFT), impulsivity/reflectivity (MFFT). Participants of the experiment were 480 students aged 14-22 years. The data obtained convincingly demonstrates resource functions of conceptual abilities in growth of creativity, verbal and nonverbal intelligence, competence; mobilization of involuntary control in terms of perceptual structuring and scanning; activation of the process of generating mental narratives.