PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

GENDER RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY:
AN ANALYSIS OF PSYCHO-DIAGNOSTIC TOOLKIT

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Today, various methods and techniques are widely used in the field of gender studies, the choice of which is determined by the scientist's belonging to a particular school and field of knowledge. In particular, psychological science has received a theoretical basis and practical discoveries that have been implemented in the framework of anthropology and history (rethinking anthropocentrism), economic theory (the feminization of poverty, economic dependence of women, etc.), culturology (cultural gender stereotyping), sociology (gender as a social construct), feminism (fighting for equality), philosophy (rethinking the concept of androcentrism).

The current state of psychological research in the field of gender issues has a significant imbalance: a huge amount of theoretical background, and a rather limited psycho-diagnostic toolkit. By psycho-diagnostic tools we mean standardized techniques (tests, questionnaires) that can be used to identify certain or other gender characteristics of a person. Among the standardized and long-used methods that can be used in the study of gender issues are the following: Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI), Implicit Association Test (IAT), Gender Bias Quiz.

Today, the Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI) questionnaire is designated as determining the psychological gender of a person. The method contains 60 questions and consists of three blocks of 20 questions that determine whether a person belongs to one of the three types of psychological gender: 1) psychological male (masculine type); 2) psychological female (feminine type); 3) psychological gender, which harmoniously combines the classic «male» and» female « manifestations is labeled as androgyny [1]. S. Bem also identified a category of people who showed poorly expressed traits on each of the scales (masculinity-femininity), which psychologist described this variant as «undifferentiated» psychological gender [1]. Therefore, this technique allows us to determine how a person identifies himself/herself psychologically, and not just at the level of biological sex.

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One of the methods that works at the level of unconscious personality bias is the Implicit Association Test (IAT), also called Hidden Bias Tests [3]. This test was developed in the framework of Project Implicit, which was founded in 1998 by such scientists as: Tony Greenwald (University of Washington), Mahzarin Banaji (Harvard University), and Brian Nosek (University of Virginia).

Today, the project is hosted on the Harvard University website platform. The main idea of this project was to study the unconscious social attitudes inherent in people. The proposed test (more precisely, the combination of tests) allows us to determine gender stereotypes that are inherent in the individual; in addition, the method also allows to explore racial, religious stereotypes, attitudes to people with special needs, and so on. Identification of the presence or absence of social stereotypes is based on the analysis of average indicators (reaction rate) to the information shown by the subject.

In developing the Implicit Association Test (IAT) methodology, scientists have relied on psychological research that shows the presence of some unconscious biases that influencing human behavior.

One of the most used in foreign psychological science in the field of gender research is the Gender Bias Quiz, which is used to study gender stereotypes of the individual [2]. In addition to studying the presence of a certain level of gender-based biases, the purpose of this tool was to increase the level of awareness of existing stereotypes and patterns, based on the data obtained. The structure of the methodology is designed in such a way that not only its description is provided opposite each level, but also what else the individual can work on (within the framework of the gender issue).

This questionnaire was developed and published in Canada in 2015 with the support of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), an intergovernmental organization that aims to increase educational opportunities among the population that requires it. The questionnaire consists of 20 statements, each of which the Respondent is asked to rate on a scale from 1 to 4, where 1-completely disagree, 2-partially disagree, 3-partially agree, 4-completely agree. At the beginning of the questionnaire, the instructions note that the test taker should answer/La as he/she thinks, and not as it is accepted in society. This technique has the advantage that it gives a gradation of the degree to which gender stereotypes are inherent for the person who passed the test.

Therefore, the study of gender aspects of personality can be explored through the following methods. It should be emphasized that the techniques described (Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI), Implicit Association Test (IAT), Gender Bias Quiz) belong to a standardized psycho-diagnostic toolkit that should be used in the context of gender studies. It is clear that studying gender issues, stereotypes, and personal attitudes toward gender issues should be

complemented by methods that allow the scientist to get not only quantitative indicators but also qualitative characteristics (such as in-depth interviews, content analysis, etc.).

References:

1. Bem, S. (1993). *The Lenses of Gender: Transforming the Debate on Sexual Inequality.* Yale University Press.

2. Gender Bias Quiz (2015). The Institutional Scorecard for Gender Mainstreaming / written by K. Tezare; edited by R. Wong. Commonwealth of Learning (COL). URL: http://oasis.col.org/bitstream/handle/11599/1740/2015_COL_Gender-Bias-Quiz.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y (accessed 02 March 2019).

3. Project Implicit / Implicit Association Test (IAT). URL: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/aboutus.html (accessed 01 March 2020).