ROLE OF PARENTS' ADJUSTMENT IN EXPLAINING PERCEPTION OF ADOLESCENTS' NEGATIVE INTERACTIONS WITH MOTHER AND FATHER

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ABSTRACT

The research was conducted with the aim of examining the contribution of facets of the adjustment of mother and father for explaining the adolescents' perception of negative relations with parents. The following adjustment measures were used in this research: anxiety, hypersensitivity, inner coherence, interpersonal orientation and aggression of mother and father individually. The measures of negative interactions between adolescents and parents are conceptualized through the dimension of negative relations with parents, which includes adolescents' assessment regarding the rejection by father and mother and the assessment of negative relations with father and mother. The research was conducted on a sample including 273 subjects in total: 47 female subjects, 44 male subjects and their parents. For testing the hypotheses, the multiple regression analysis was used. The obtained results show that adjustment facets are important predictors for explaining the perception of negative relations with father. The facet of aggression stands as the most significant predictor among adjustment factors for the group of fathers. For the group of mothers, adjustment did not prove a significant predictor for explaining perception of negative relations. Possible explanations for a modest contribution of mother's adjustment can be found in the possibility for the quality of family interactions with mother is more explained by an emotional relation that is established between her and the child in early childhood and does not change its quality at later development stages.
Key words: perception of negative relations with mother and father, parents' adjustment

INTRODUCTION

According to Vukasović (1997), family is the basic social community, first and foremost social community, and as such, it is the basic institution for the life of any individual. It is based on a joint life by blood relations of the related persons, most often parents and children. Kuburić (2001) states that family is the place of primary emotional exchange and parents are the coordinators of the process of exchange within family. However, these exchanges do not necessarily have to include love and acceptance, but also hostility, anger and hostility. For all members – participants in family interactions such exchanges are often causes of numerous difficulties in behavior and internalized and externalized difficulties.

In order to conceptualize more precisely parental actions the most frequent model used for their systematization is the theory of parental acceptance and rejection that is actually the theory of socialization. The theory tries to explain and anticipate the consequences of parental behavior in the dimension of parental warmth and has acceptance on its positive and rejection of child on its negative pole.

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The parents who accept their children are determined as those who show their love and positive feelings to their children. The parents who reject their children are determined as those who do not love, approve of or provide support to their children, they resent them and are bitter towards their children (Kuburić, 2001).

According to Grgin-Lacković (2000), as they grow older, children get more capable of perceiving and understanding the nature of human relations and parental actions towards them. Therefore, such processes can be explored better with adolescents that with the younger children.

Berk (2008) states that one of the most important factors that determine the quality of affection towards observations made by numerous researchers can be conceptualized through family conditions in which child grows up. Loss of job, unsuccessful marriage, financial difficulties and other stressful factors can have a negative effect on the development of affection, decreasing the sensitivity of parental care about child. Early experiences do not predetermine a person to become a sensitive or insensitive parent. Actually, the way in which a person experiences one's own childhood – one's ability to accept negative things, incorporate new information into one's own work model and perceive one's own parents with understanding their behavior and forgiving them – has a much bigger influence on the way a parent brings one's own children than the real events in one's childhood (Main, 2000, according to Berk, 2008).

Previous research into parental relations were mostly concentrated on examining parental relations as predictors of certain forms of adjusted and unadjusted forms of behavior of children and adolescents. According to Vulić-Prtorić, (2002) family relations are in the focus of research into interaction models of psychopathology. The theory of affection by John Bolbyj (1992, see Vulić-Prtorić, 2002) proved to be most cited in the interpretation of relation between the disorders in early parent- child communication and various internalized and externalized forms of psychopathology. Apart from the theory of affection, development psychopathology today has many so called "mini" theories or interpretations related to one or more components of a specific form of disfunctionality (Vulić-Prtorić, 2001, 2002). A consistent result obtained in past research shows that internalized and externalized disorders have an important relation to the negative aspects of interaction between parents and child, especially with rejection and control by parents. In the last decade, there has been an emphasis that the research in this field equally use assessments given by parents and those given by children. It was evident that child's perception of interaction with parents is often not significantly related to parents' reports or even objective observers, but it is the best predictor of psychological problems that can occur in disturbed family relations. Mother with high anxiety in laboratory situations are seen as those realizing less harmonious relations with children and they are less sensitive to child's needs when compared to the mothers with low latent anxiety. Memories of acceptance by loved ones during childhood have a positive relation to self-esteem and a negative relation to latent and manifested anxiety. These findings indicate that the memories of relation with parent at childhood are in correlation to the individual self in a grown-up person.

Modern approaches practically follow the same paradigm and regularly confirm the initial hypotheses on the importance of negative relation with parents for the psychological adjustment of children. These relations are especially important for understanding the development of aggressive behavior (Shaffer 1979, see Bezinović 2000). Asocial behavior of a child is closely connected to cold relations and emotional rejection of a child (Haapasalo and Tremblay 1994, Hojat 1994, Kuterovac-Jagodić and Keresteš 1997, in Bezinović 2000). A hostile relation with parents includes the lack in satisfying child's needs and expectations. Probably the best explanation of these findings is given by the theories of social learning, which emphasize the modulation of aggressive behavior with children who have aggressive parents. Children of aggressive parents who do not control their aggression have less chance to learn how to control their negative impulses.

As the theoretical part of the previous research was mainly based on Bowlby's theory of emotional attachment, it mainly focused on children (Bowlby, 1969, in Bezinović, 2000), while more recent research started focusing on adolescent, that is, examination of a relation between parental behavior and adolescents' behavior. Fauber and associates (1990, in Bezinović, 2000) find that mother's rejection (lack of warmth and acceptance) is related to personal emotional problems of adolescents. Capaldi and Patterson (1991, in Bezinović, 2000) find that inadequate supervision by parents, as well as low intensity of parent-child relation is an important factor of negative adjustment of early adolescent boys.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

The basic problem of this research is to examine the way in which elements of adjustment, conceptualized through interpersonal orientation, anxiety, depression, hypersensitivity, inner coherence and aggression of mother and father, contribute to the interpretation of the quality of family interactions by adolescents. Since numerous theoretical concepts ((Bowlby, Rohner, Petterson etc.) emphasized that the presence of emotional distance and open hostility directly influences the quality of interaction with children, this research aimed at determining the extent to which the facets of parents' adjustment contribute to the way in which their children adolescents perceive their relations with parents.

Research goal

The basic goal of this research is to establish to what extent the facets of mother and father adjustment are important predictors for explaining negative relations with mother and father. It is particularly aimed at establishing which adjustment facets (philanthropic and misanthropic interpersonal orientation, inner coherence, anxiety, depression, hypersensitivity, and aggression) explain for the highest percentage of variance of negative relations with mother and father. Also, this research tries to establish whether the adjustment facets are more predictive for explaining negative relations with mother or father.

Hypotheses

1. Taking into consideration the fact that aggression, depression, hypersensitivity, anxiety, inner coherence and interpersonal (philanthropic and misanthropic) orientation, as the facets of adaptive functioning, are important determinants of people's behavior, it is expected that the abovementioned characteristics of parents would be predictive for explaining adolescents' perception of negative aspects of parenthood.

2. Regarding the dominance of the figure and role in all development periods including adolescence, it is justifiable to expect that the facets of mother's adjustment would be more significant for the perception of negative relations with mother.

Research subjects

The research was conducted on a sample of 273 subjects, 47 female subjects and 44 male subjects and their parents. All the subjects come from complete families, their average age is 19 years and 8 months,

and they are all students of the first and second year at the Faculty of Philosophy, Departments of Pedagogy and Psychology, Journalism and Technical Education and Computer Science. As mentioned, all of them come from complete families and they were not separated from their families during their studying. The age of their parents is as follows: six parents are up to 40 years of age, 109 are between 40 and 50 years old, 56 are between 50 and 60 years old, eight of them are between 60 and 70 years old and three parents are over 70.

Measuring instruments

The following questionnaires and scales were used in this research:

Questionnaire of paste relations with parents - the Questionnaire of past relations (Smojver-Ažić, 1999) with parents is used for examining the relations with mother and father in the first 15 years of life. On a scale that includes 42 statements of Likert type (from 0 – never, to 4 – always) the frequency of occurrence of certain behavior of father and mother is assessed. The questionnaire includes three subscales: care, control, and rejection (for father and mother individually).

Questionnaire of perception of present relations with parents - By the Questionnaire of present relations with parents the subjects assess their present relation with father and mother. On a Likert-type scale (from 0 – does not describe at all, to 4 – completely describes), it is estimated to what extent the statement describes father and mother, that is, their present feelings towards father and mother. Therefore, the scale consists of 42 items and two subscales – negative relations with parents, and the perception of support received from father and mother. **The subscale of negative relations** contains most statements related to the so called conflict independence and alienation. **The subscale of support** contains items of trust and affection. The total result is determined as the linear combination of assessments on individual scales.

Questionnaire for measuring aggression (AG-87) - The questionnaire is based on the assumption that there are two basic types of aggression regarding the motivation that lies beyond any aggressive behavior – impulsive and instrumental aggression. As a trait, aggression can be demonstrated on two levels as latent tendency towards aggression and with aggressive manifestation. In brief, the questionnaire is aimed at assessing aggressive behavior in provoking situations, that is, at measuring impulsive aggression.

In accordance to the theoretical background which served as the questionnaire bases, five most frequent forms (modalities) of aggressive reaction were offered as possible reactions: verbal manifestation of aggression, physical manifestation of aggression, indirect (transferred) aggression, verbal latent aggression and physical latent aggression. The total result is formed as a simple linear combination of appropriate answers to all 15 items of the questionnaire. The possible range of results is from 75 to 375.

Scale for measuring feelings of inner coherence - the feeling of inner coherence is defined as a relative stable feeling of an individual that the world he/she lives in is understandable, surmountable and meaningful. In his model, Antovsky treats it as the main exploratory factor. The construct is measured by a scale constructed by Antovsky (1987, in Grgin-Lacković, 2002), with the aim of measuring three dimensions (level of understanding, meaningfulness, manageability). The past research into stress and health showed that SOC has a positive correlation with the measures of self-efficiency, positive mood, satisfaction by life, indicators of better life, self-esteem and primary control as well as with the general and personal belief in a just world (Coe and Smith, 1994, Meyers, 1997, Buntić-Pejaković et al., 2000; Ćubela and Ivanov, 2001, in Grgin-Lacković, 2002).

Scale of interpersonal orientation is constructed with the intention to change the attitudes towards the generalized others. In the creation of the scale the Sullivan's interpersonal theory of development was followed. According to the theory, the development of self conception goes in parallel with development of interpersonal orientation. While creating the scale, the author followed these theories. Therefore, the scale of interpersonal orientation includes two basic factors determined by exploratory factor analysis: factor of positive (philanthropic) orientation and factor of negative (misanthropic) orientation. The first factor includes the sub-factors of **need for people** and **friendship**, while the other factor includes the sub-factors **hostility** (orientation "against people") and **social isolation** (orientation "away from people"). The total result is formed as a simple linear combination of circled statements in accordance to the appropriate subscales.

Cornell index was developed out of the need for conducting fact psychiatric and psychosomatic evaluation of a larger number of people in different surroundings. Apart from that, this instrument enables statistical differentiation of persons with serious personal and psychosomatic disorders from other part of the population. The Cornell index proved efficient for diagnosing anxiety, hypochondria, asocial tendencies, convulsion disorders, migraine, asthma, gastric ulcer, and border clinical syndromes. It is particularly useful for detecting border clinical conditions that would otherwise be overlooked since they are between certain classification categories (the so called psychosomatic disorders). One of the recommendations for using the Cornell index is precisely in research, since this instruments provides a simple method for gathering standardized data on the adjustment of subjects that can be easily statistically processed (Weider, Wolff, Brodman, Mittelmann, Wechsler, 1997). For the needs of this research the subscales of anxiety, depression and hypersensitivity were used. The total result on subscales is formed as the linear combination of subjects' responses that can be in the form "yes" and "no" (of binary types), and the border results on certain scales are indicators of presence or lack of certain symptoms.

Procedure
In order to gather the data for this research, the method of group and individual testing was used on an appropriate sample of subjects. The data on subjects – students were collected by an anonymous and voluntary group testing. Students were given the appropriate instructions for work for every instrument applied. Testing, that is, the process of data collection was conducted on one occasion. The data form parents with the previously given consent were collected in such a way that students took the instruments to their parents in an envelope. For the sake of anonymity and voluntariness in the research, the students were instructed to, prior to giving the envelopes to their parents; write down a code which they used to sign the paper on the inner side of the envelope. Following the detailed instructions given along with the instruments, the parents filled in the tests, put them in the envelope, sealed the envelope and returned it to the researcher via students within 24 hours. None of the subjects refused to participate in the research. However, there were cases when parents returned the instruments without filling them in completely. That is the consequence of the fact that there was no possibility for organizing the group data collection from parents with the presence of the researcher. The data collection process lasted for eight months.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first step in the processing of the obtained data, was the calculation of average values and dispersion index for independent and dependent variables, as well as the determination of the reliability coefficient for every variable in the research. The results are showed in the following tables.

Table 1. Descriptive statistical values of the variables used in the research for the group of subjects

Scale	min	max.	M	SD	Skew	Kurt	K-Sz	p
Rejection father	0	18	3.21	3.802	1.709	2.75	2.081	0.000
Rejection mother	0	14	3.48	3.284	1.145	0.93	1.554	0.016
Negative relations with father	0	100	33.41	22.308	0.745	-0.01	0.929	0.354
Negative relations with mother	0	102	28.45	19.673	1.069	1.328	1.219	0.102

As it can be seen in Table 1, the distributions of the results on the scales "rejection by father" and "rejection by mother" significantly deviate from the normal ones. For the purpose of applying appropriate parametric statistical procedures they were subject to transformation. The results on the subscale of rejection by mother (K-SzOM =2,081; p=0,00) and father(K-SzOO =1,554; p=0,01) were transformed by extracting the square root (KszOOsqrt=1,32; p=0,063). The subscale of rejection by mother, due to larger deviation from the normal distribution was transformed by using logarithms (K-Sz OMlog=0,95; p=0,327). Therefore, further analyses were made on the results transformed in such ways. Significant deviations of the results on the subscale of rejection by parents from normal distribution can be caused by significantly changed factor structure of the subscale. Usually, it is believed that (Colin 1996, in Smojver-Ažić 1999) some 60% of the persons in the population have normal attachment. Accordingly, deviations can be expected in both, positive and negative dimensions of perceived relations. The results on all the subscales related to the assessment of negative aspects of relationship with parents are positively asymmetric, which is in accordance to the description of instruments and results of similar researches conducted among the normal population. Namely, rejection by parents is a positively asymmetric dimension of parenthood, since there are not many individuals in the non-clinical population who perceive that their parents rejected them. The values of kurtosis for most variables for the research subject indicate leptokurtic distributions, which can be explained by the sample size (N=91 for subjects). Table 2 shows descriptive parameters of adjustment facets for the group of mothers.

Table 2. Descriptive statistical values of variables used in the research for the group of mothers

Scale	min.	max.	M	SD	Skew	Kurt	K-Sz	p
Philanthropic orientation	11	53	33.7	9.599	-0.175	0.381	0.565	0.907
Misanthropic orientation	6	51	25.25	8.934	0.209	0.23	0.78	0.557
Inner coherence	33	143	102.76	23.544	-0.918	0.904	1.098	0.18
Anxiety	0	9	4.65	2.268	0.022	-0.696	1.231	0.097
Hypersensitivity	0	10	3.46	2.396	0.631	0.071	1.51	0.021
Depression	0	7	1.14	1.713	1.593	1.665	2.774	0.000
Aggression	79	217	135.76	33.069	0.67	0.308	1.228	0.073

As it can be seen in Table 2, the distributions of the results for the group of mothers on scales of hypersensitivity (K-SzHs=1,51; p=0,02) and depression (K-SzD=2,77; p=0,00) deviate significantly form the normal one. As it was expected, the distributions of the results on these scales are positively asymmetric since the research sample was taken from the non-clinical population, while the self-evaluations on these scales are related to adjustment. Due to significant deviations from the normal distribution, the results on these scales were transformed and as such used in further statistical analyses. The results on the scale of hypersensitivity were transformed by extracting the square root (K-SzHs=1,27; p=0,07) and due to a large deviation from the normal distribution, the depression variable was dichotomized (K-SzD=1,27; p=0,079). Also, it is important to mention that the results for the philanthropic orientation are negatively asymmetric, while the distributions of the results for the elements of adjustment are positively asymmetric. The direction of deviation form the normal distribution for the adjustment facets indicate that mother achieve above-average results for adjustment facets, which is somewhat expected for the non-clinical population. The values of kurtosis given separately for philanthropic orientation (Kurt= 0,381), inner coherence (Kurt= 0,901), anxiety (Kurt= 0,696), and depression (Kurt= 1,665) indicate leptokurtic distributions of the results of mothers' self-evaluation on these scales. Table 3 shows descriptive parameters of adjustment facets for the group of fathers.

Table 3. Descriptive statistical values of variables used in the research for the group of fathers

Scale	min.	max.	M	SD	Skew	Kurt	K-Sz	p
Philanthropic orientation	7	60	32.91	11.07	0.175	0.195	0.706	0.701
Misanthropic orientation	4	46	23.69	9.25	0.172	0.539	0.645	0.80
Inner coherence	40	143	100.75	25.76	-0.676	0.15	1.181	0.123
Anxiety	0	9	3.5	2.01	0.546	0.107	1.352	0.52
Hypersensitivity	0	11	2.54	2.158	1.4	2.83	1.472	0.021
Depression	0	7	1.17	1.93	1.787	2.204	3.046	0.000
Aggression	67	271	154.27	44.8	0.533	0.255	0.929	0.354

As can be seen in Table 3, the importance of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for hypersensitivity (K-SzHs=1,47; p=0,0021) and depression (K-SzD=3,04; p=0,000) clearly indicates significant deviations of these results from the normal distribution. Therefore, the results on these scales were subject to transformation. The results on the depression scale were transformed by dichotomization while the results on the hypersensitivity scale were transformed logarithmically (K-SzHs=1,32; p=0,06).
It is interesting to mention that the skewness values for self-evaluations of fathers on all scales show that the distributions on all scales are more or less positively asymmetric. Unlike the group of mothers, fathers' self-evaluations are positively asymmetric. The values of kurtosis for most distributions of results (not including philanthropic orientation and anxiety) indicate the leptokurtic distributions of results.

The dimension of adjustment consists of adjustment elements which include: aggression, depression, hypersensitivity, inner coherence, anxiety, and interpersonal (misanthropic and philanthropic) orientation. Prior to testing the hypothesis related to the individual contribution of adjustment elements, the contribution of every single facet was analyzed in explaining parents' adjustment. Thus, Table 4 shows inter-correlations of elements of parents' adjustments as well as their correlations with the total result on the dimension of adjustment, analyzed as differentially pondered linear combinations of facets.

Table 4. Intercorrelations of individual facets of adjustment and correlations of every facet with the total result on the dimension of adjustment

	Aggression	Depression	Hypersensitivity	Anxiety	Inner coherence	Misanthropy	Philanthropy	Total result on ad/adj dimension
Aggression		0.457**	0.346**	0.278*	-0.302**	0.320**	0.18	0.853**
Depression		--	0.452**	0.476**	-0.308**	0.518**	-0.053	0.331**
Hypersensitivity			--	0.456**	-0.228*	0.327**	0.036	0.289**
Anxiety				--	-0.338**	0.481**	0.237*	0.189
inner coherence					--	-0.322**	0.017	0.17
Misanthropy						--	0.031	0.294*
Philanthropy							--	0.381**

* correlation significant at the level of risk 0 ** correlation significant at the level of risk 1%

Depression symptoms are the first important correlate of the adjustment dimension (r_{du}=0,0,331; p=0,00). Depressive tendencies are also related to the basic personality traits. Depression at childhood and adolescent age is related to low results on the dimension of emotional stability, that is, to noticeable Neuroticism (Barbaranelli et al. 2003, Dunkle et al. 1997, Ehrler et al. 1999, Huey and Weisz 1997, John et al. 1994, in Tujil et al 2005), low results on the dimension of Extroversion, (Huey and Weisz, 1937, John 1994, in Tujil et al. 2005) and low scores on Emotional stability. Antisocial behaviors are related to low scores on the dimension of Extraversion (Huey and Weisz, 1997, John 1994, in Tujili et al. 2005), and low emotional stability.

The most important correlate of adjustment dimension is aggression (r_{au}=0,853; p=0,00). Although aggression, as an important feature of human behavior, is discussed in numerous theories and it is widely explored, it is believed that it has still not been explained in a satisfying way (Bezinović and Smojver-Ažić, 2000). Aggressive behavior, as early as at the age of 8-10, is related to aggression at adolescent period and adulthood. Gerald Patterson (in Reilly, 1999) created a development model of antisocial behavior in which he discusses the causes of behavior at early and mid-childhood and adolescence. According to this model, the key factor for the development of antisocial behavior is the permanent lack of appropriate social skills of parents, which results in a bad model of identification and learning of skills that are important for a normal development in childhood.

It is interesting that the anxiety variable has a rather modest contribution to the dimension of adjustment (r_{au}=0,189, p>0,05). According to Mladenović and Knebl (1999), anxiety is defined as condition, feeling, and personality dimension. Some authors define it as the sub-dimension in the area of general personality dimensions. Thus Eysenck (in Mladenović and Knebl, 1999), defines anxiety as the sub-dimension of Neuroticism. A low participation of anxiety in the adjustment dimension can also be the result of selecting insufficiently sensitive measure of anxiety. Persons with high latent anxiety have difficulties, primarily psychological symptoms related to self presentation, and the fear of the way other people perceive them. Such symptoms are the subject of personal experience of an individual, but they are not likely to be noticed by other persons. They can indicate defensive anxiety (Krug et al., 1976, in Birngen, 1990) and have potential influence on sensitivity, physical contact and harmony in a relationship between mother and child. Contrary to that, persons with high manifested anxiety report physical difficulties that can be observed by others, but they do not affect evaluations and experiences of other individuals. Such symptoms are related to manifested or non-defensive anxiety. The relation between manifested anxiety and rejection indicates that the memories of behaviors related to rejection are connected to anxiety at adulthood. Significant contribution in adjustment in our research is ascribed to the variable of interpersonal of orientation, that is, philanthropic and misanthropic orientation (r_{fu}=0,381, p=0,00, r_{mu}=0,294; p=0,00).

Since the dimensions of interpersonal orientation are related to interactions with others as well as to social movements towards people and against people[3], it is justifiable to assume that interpersonal orientation is an important element of adjustment, which has been confirmed by our research, as well as the successful socialization of an individual. Interpersonal orientation of an individual contributes to manifestation forms of parental behavior towards children, which is a certain model of children's behavior.

In order to examine the connection between parental elements of adjustment and the ways in which adolescents perceive their relations with mother and father, a multiple regression analysis was conducted.

In accordance to the theoretical postulates and past research in the field of the perception of relations with parents (Rohner and Britner, 2001, Jagodić-Keresteš, 2000, Kuburić, 2001, Vulić-Prtorić, 2002, in Efendić-Spahić, 2007), variables related to the perception of past and present relations with mother and father can be summarized into two dimensions. The first dimension includes negative relations with father consisting of the facets of rejection and negative relations with father, while the second set includes the facets of negative relations with mother: rejection and negative relations with mother. Inter-correlations of individual facets and their correlations with the total result for the perception of parental relations are given in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5. Intercorrelations of facets related to the indicators of negative relations with father and the correlation of every facet with the total result of dimension of negative relations with father

Facets	Rejection - father	Negative relations - father	Total result on the dimension of negative relations with father
Rejection - father	--	0.592**	0.622**
Negative relations - father	--	--	0.99**

* correlation significant at the level of risk ** correlation significant at the level of risk 1%

Table 6. Intercorrelations of facets related to the indicators of negative relations with mother and the correlation of every facet with the total result of dimension of negative relations with father

Facets	Rejection - mother	Negative relations - mother	Total result on the dimension of negative relations with mother
Rejection - mother	--	-0.415**	-0.381*
Negative relations - mother	--	--	0.99**

* *correlation significant at the level of risk 5% ** correlation significant at the level of risk 1%

As it can be seen in Tables 5 and 6, inter-correlations among individual facets of negative relations with parents are in the range of moderate to high, and they are mostly statistically significant at the level of risk of 1%.

It is important to mention that the dimensions of negative relations with father and mother were formed primarily according to the quality of relations (positive and negative relations) and not to the time perspective of relations (past and present relations with mother and father). The validity of this thesis lies in the irrefutable fact that relations with parents in the function of time do not change their quality (Vulić-Prtorić 2000, 2002; Smojver-Ažić 1999; 2006; Grgin-Lacković 2006; Kuterovac-Jagodić, Keresteš 1997; Pašalić-Kreso 2004).

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[3]In our research, misanthropy is in a moderate but statistically significant correlation with aggression (rma=0,320; p=0,00). Therefore "moving away from people", as misanthropy is defined, can be interpreted within the framework of aggressive behavior.

Therefore, the set of variables related to the perception of positive relations with parents includes the variables of care and control that cover the perception of the quality of past relations with parents as well as the variable of perception of positive relations with parents that is related to the evaluation of the quality of present relations with parents. In the same way, in the set of variables related to the perception of negative relations with parents, the variable of rejection is related to the evaluation of quality of past relations with father and mother and the variable of perception of negative relations with parents is related to the evaluation of present relations with parents.

The structures of variables of negative relations with parents and adjustment of mother and father, which were differentially pondered, were the basis for multiple regression analysis, which enabled the analysis of contribution of every individual facet of adjustment of mother and father separately for the explanation of negative relation with parents. The results are given in Table 7.

Predictors	Negative relations with mother			Negative relations with father		
Adjustment	beta	t	p	beta	t	p
Philanthropic orientation	-0.047	-0.353	0,725	0.114	1.085	0.281
Misanthropic orientation	-0.126	-0.98	0,331	0.057	0.477	0.635
Inner coherence	-0.098	-0.749	0,457	0,047	0.417	0.678
Anxiety	-0.12	-0.785	0.435	-0.032	-0.283	0.778
Hypersensitivity	0.152	1.032	0.306	0.143	1.274	0.206
Depression	0.062	0,413	0.681	0.201	1.59	0.116
Aggression	-0.185	-1,363	0.178	0.216	1.911	0.05
	R=0.282	F=0,775		R=0.417	F=2.401	
	R²=0.079	p=0,610		R²=0,174	p=0.028	

As it is evident from Table 7, the facets of adjustment, as expected, proved as significant predictors for the perception of negative relations with father (R=0,417; p=0,028). Among the facets of adjustment, the most significant was father's aggression (=0,216; t=1,911; p=0,05). Since aggression is often a form of unadjusted behavior aimed at others, it is expected that father with expressed aggressions are perceived by their children as rejecting and hostile. The remaining facets as separate predictors did not give any statistical contribution to the explanation of negative relations with father. However, the significance of the coefficient of multiple correlation (R=0,417; p=0,028) clearly indicated that the dimension of adjustment has a statistically significant contribution to the explanation of adolescents' perception of negative relations with father and that poor adjustment of father can explain for 17.4% of the total variance of adolescents' perception of negative relations.

As Table 8 shows, not a single variable in the research for the group of mothers proved to be a significant predictor for the perception of mother's characteristics. It is reasonable to assume that the perception of relations with mother is primarily determined by the quality of attachment between mother and adolescent and not by her real characteristics. Since mother is child's primary object of attachment and as children develop specific interactions with their mothers since their birth, mother is traditionally and individually related to the attributes that are the result of attachment and not of their real characteristics. The value of the coefficient of multiple correlation is only R=0,282 (p=0,610). Since this is statistically insignificant coefficient, it does not require further analysis as it shows that mothers' adjustment explain for only 7% of the total variance of perception of negative relations with mother.

CONCLUSIONS

The research into the relation of the contribution of parents' adjustment elements in explaining the perception of negative relations with mother and father by adolescents, conducted on a sample of 273 subjects, 47 female subjects and 44 male subjects and their parents revealed the following conclusions:

The facets of father's adjustment significantly contribute to the explanation of adolescents' perception of negative relations with father whereby the most significant determinant of perception of negative relations with father if fathers' aggression. Although other measures of adjustment, discussed in this research (anxiety, depression, hypersensitivity, interpersonal orientations, and inner coherence) are not individually significant to the explanation of perception of negative relations with father, totally they do explain a statistically significant percentage of the variability of negative relations assessment.

The facets of adjustment for the group of mothers did not prove significant for explaining the perception of negative relations by mothers. Although in accordance to the theoretical postulates and research results discussed in this paper it was expected that mother's adjustment would be a significant factor for creating negative assessments of relations with adolescents, the results however suggest that it is possible that adolescents' assessments of the quality of relations with mother are primarily the result of the quality of attached relations established at earlier development stages.

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