

A siker-kudarc attribúció és a kultúra összefüggésének vizsgálata a roma- és magyar kultúra esetében

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Abstract

The present research makes use of a survey targeting the success–failure attributions in Hungarian and Roma cultures, thus willing to give an answer to whether there is any difference between the two cultures. Furthermore, we would also like to verify whether this attributive distortion manifests itself differently in childhood and in adulthood, respectively. Finally, we will also look for some answers whether failure attribution can change due to the effects of applying different methods.

The research consists of two parts. As for the first one, we had a group of 288 participants consisting of 133 members of Roma and 155 of Hungarian nationality.

The participants under survey had to make a narrative analysis about success and failure in relation with both cultures. The question following the narration aimed at the root causes of the main characters' successes or failures. The participants could choose from among three possible answers. One of the answers assigned the causes of event to pure luck; according to the second one they were due to external environmental factors, while the third possibility included the inner, dispositional reasons.

In the second part of the research the participants made narrative analyses based on the same methodology, but with a little difference: we examined solely the failure attributions exclusively with Roma children; furthermore, we also observed what impact could be made on failure attributions by applying the methodology of life course and narration analysis. This time we had 45 children participants, whose average age was 12 years.

After construing the results of the research, we concluded that success is equally attributed to inner, personal reasons both in the Roma and Hungarian culture. However, there is a difference between the failure attributions of the two cultures: while Hungarians assign failure to external factors, the Roma consider internal factors to be at the basis of failure. We can also point out a difference that turns up between success and failure attribu-

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tions with the children and adult population. Although the former two categories equally assign success to inner factors, they judge the causes of failure differently: while children ascribe the causes of failure to dispositions, adults name external factors as the root causes of failure. Our hypothesis concerning the second part of the research did not prove true, meaning that the success attribution of the participants under survey had not been changed by the impact of life course and narration analysis, and although there is a certain tendency towards change, the influence of intervention stays irrelevant.

The practical benefit of our research lies in the fact that – through the exploration of the differences between the two cultures - we can answer the reasons for the different functioning of psychological mechanisms. For instance, assigning failure to internal causes decreases motivation in the case of the Roma culture, thus exerting influence on reducing performance.

Key-words

Success–failure attributions, cultural difference, attributive distortion