

Moral judgments about morality of people with high or low vertical moral coherence

The aim of my presentation is to put forward my research connected with the assessment of coherent and incoherent morality.

According to Polish psychologist Zylicz (2010), we can notice in the literature the **vertical moral coherence**, which concerns usually the consistency of views and behavior (Darley, Batson, 1973; Zylicz, 2010), and the **horizontal moral coherence**, related to behaviors in different situations.

Researches underline, that it is necessary to examine the vertical moral coherence, including not only behavior, beliefs (views), but also **emotions** (Golab, 1975; Styczen, Szostek, 1995; Rozin, 1999; Smilansky, 2009; Huebner, Dwyer, Hauser, 2009; Tyszka, 2010).

The aim of my studies is to investigate moral judgments about others' morality, including information about their behavior, emotions and views. **The first study** (international sample, young adults, N=33, years 2012&2013) points out that emotions are a relevant factor in assessing someone's morality.

The questionnaire is made up of questions related to the assessment of ethical behaviors, identified in my previous qualitative studies: telling the truth, obeying religious rules, stealing, being unfaithful to partner (N=150, year 2012). Respondents were asked to assess whether a person (knowing his specific behavior, beliefs and emotions) is morally good or bad (scale 0-5, where 5 is very moral, good person).

The study proved, that the most moral people according to respondents are coherent people, irrespective of the used examples. The coherence of behaviors and emotions was more significant than coherence of behaviors and views, e.g. more moral man is who says the truth, feels happy about it and thinks that we can lie than who says the truth, thinks that we should tell the truth but feels anger that he does it.

Some specific results: it is better (according to respondents) to steal, feel guilty and think that it is wrong (M= 2,67; SD=1,49) than do not steal, think that we can steal and feel desire to do it (M= 1,06; SD=1,22).

The next experimental study is in the progress now. It will be finished by the end of 2013 year. I am going to show young adults some fictional articles from the newspaper, including interviews with the described character. There will be different types of articles. In some of them there will be only information about behavior (good or bad), in other information about views (e.g. "Man said that he thinks that everyone should help"), then about emotions (e.g. "Man said that he is very satisfied") and in some of the articles there will be full information about behavior, views and emotions - coherent or incoherent. Respondents will be asked to assess someone's morality (scale 0-7). There will be 18 different short articles (20 people for one). The research question is the same like in the first study, however, different method and bigger sample will be used.

To sum up, I would like to start the reflection about the impact of my studies on our ethical self-image.