

EXPRESSIVE AND INSTRUMENTAL SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS OF AGGRESSION: RESPONSES TO PROVOKING SCENARIOS

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This study examined differences in emotional and behavioral responses to provoking scenarios between respondents with expressive and instrumental social representations of aggression. The 225 participants were students of Belarusian State University (age 18-22, 110 male, 115 female). The participants completed the revised 40-item version of EXPAGG (Archer and Haigh, 1997; Campbell et al., 1999) and modified version Aggressive Provocation Questionnaire (O'Connor et al., 2001; Fourmanov, 2006). In studies, respondents tend to hold more expressive than instrumental representations. Males scored significantly lower than females on the items measuring the expressive representations. They also scored significantly higher than females on the items measuring the instrumental representations. In provoking situation respondents with expressive representations more feeling frustrated and fear. They tend to passive aggression, suppressive aggression and avoidance than subjects with instrumental representations. Respondents with instrumental representations showed more active aggression. Assertive actions did not differ. The expressive representation scale was positive correlated with anger, frustrated, irritated, fear subscale items and also passive aggression, active aggression, suppressive aggression and avoidance. The instrumental representations showed the positive relationship with anger and the active aggression action scale, then also negative with suppressive aggression and avoidance. In conclusion, the present study shows that respondents with expressive representations of aggression had lower level of emotional regulation, avoiding direct verbal or physical aggression. They to prefer a) avoiding the situation, denying that something is wrong, or transforming it into something positive, b) distant anger, indirect or delayed angry behavior, c) doing nothing, although feel angry. Subjects with instrumental representations of aggression to prefer active aggressive behavior.