

Discussion question

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Discussion Question Projective techniques are the methods directed on the research of personality features and worked out in the context of so-called projective diagnostic approach. They are based on the interpretations of the projections of the probationer. Traditionally projective tests are considered to be the most reliable, however, the area of their use is not very wide. For many projective methods the role of psychologist is crucial, because the results depend on his/her experience and professionalism.

Tests validity is very important, because according to Hogan, it represents “extent to which interpretation of a test score is appropriate for a particular purpose” (p. 351). It is not easy to measure the reliability and validity of projective techniques, because they are worked out, interpreted and used by the variety of methods. The retest also can’t be considered valid, because people may change in different situations with time. It is easy to criticize the validity of projective techniques due to the fact that their interpretation depends on the theoretical position of the psychologist. Even those specialists who adhere to similar theoretical constructions may have discrepancies interpreting projective techniques. Much also depends on the situation in which the test is proposed and the peculiarities of relations between the probationer and psychologist.

The measurement of the validity of tests is a very difficult question also because of different theoretical assumptions. It is not determined, if the validity should be built on the content of the answers or on something they symbolize. Thus, the issue of validity and reliability of projective techniques remains unsolved.

Reference

Hogan, T. P. (2007). *Psychological testing: A practical introduction* (2nd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.