

Humor and laughter can occur there where a person can, at least minimally, observe his/her inner world. This observation is based on the notion of the proper, the correct, and the appropriate.

When a teacher develops a sense of humor in pupils he/she contributes to the growth of the creative potential of identity of teenagers.

Therefore, in our opinion, the issue of humor in teaching activities shall be investigated on a deeper level of knowledge. Studies on humor should be expanded. Skills of using humor should be developed and improved. And it should be applied in practice in the future.

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**DEMONSTRATION OF SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL DISADAPTATION OF STUDENTS OF
TECHNICAL SPECIALIZATIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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The paper considers experimental research of socio-psychological disadaptation among male and female students of technical specializations of Polotsk State University and Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov.

Human gender image is, first and foremost, its identity and an assessment category of people around. Question about contemporary gender image, human self perception, is an interdisciplinary one which includes such disciplines as physiology, pedagogy, cultural studies, sociology and psychology. One of the questions regarding this problem that gender psychology deals with is how gender image affects the personality of an individual, how people perceive themselves and others through the lens of gender and sex? This question is the most relevant in adolescence. Transformation of gender representations and at the same time non-acceptance, rejection of changes for various reasons (including educational) gives rise to psychological discomfort.

Foundations for disadapative behavior is an intrapersonal conflict and under its influence an inadequate response to the conditions and requirements of the environment in form of any abnormalities in behavior is formed as a reaction to systematically, constantly precipitating factors, which person can't cope with. The traces of the beginning of human disorientation are: a person is lost and doesn't know what to do in this situation, how to carry out this unbearable demand? He either doesn't respond or responds in manner that comes first [1]. Thus, at the initial stage, a person is in the state of destabilization. Over time this confusion will pass and he will calm down. If such acts of destabilization repeat quite often it leads a person to the emergence of resistant internal conflict (dissatisfaction with himself, with his position) and external conflict (relation to the environment) which leads to persistent psychological discomfort and, as a result of such state, to disadapative behavior.

Socio-psychological personal disadaptation is primarily expressed in the inability to adapt to its own needs and aspirations. A person with adaptation disorder or full disadaptation is unable to meet the demands and

expectations applied by social environment and his own social role, his leading professional or another inside or outside motivated activity [2]. One of the features of socio-psychological personal disadaptation is his experience of long internal and external conflicts without finding any mental mechanisms and behaviors needed for their resolving [3].

Main constitutive moment of social situation of growth in adolescence is that a young man is on the verge of joining an independent life. The transition from teen to adolescence is associated with an abrupt change of internal position when facing the future becomes the main directionality of a person and the problem of choice of profession, of future life self-determination path, of finding his identity (E. Erickson) becomes "affective center" (L.I. Bozhovich) of a life situation, around which all the teen's activity and interests begin to rotate [4].

To detect the relationships between personal gender representations of himself and people around and demonstrations of socio-psychological disadaptation we used "Personalized semantic differential" method (PSD) by O.L. Kustova and "Diagnostic method of socio-psychological adaptation", developed by K. Rogers and R. Daimon and adapted by T.V. Snigereva.

As research survey respondents were students of Polotsk State University (IT Faculty) and Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov (Faculty of social pedagogy and psychology). The research involved 65 students (31 female and 34 male) aged from 19 to 23 years. Average age was 19,7 years. The aim of the research was to determine the interrelation of personal gender characteristics with socio-psychological disadaptation of male students of technical specializations of higher education. The results were obtained using the statistical software package SPSS-14 for OS Windows (descriptive statistics, Spearman correlation analysis) and qualitative processing of answer sheets. During the research the assessment of demonstrations if socio-psychological disadaptation factors as well as differences in the description of gender images "I", "Ideal man/woman", "Destination of a man/woman" was carried out. Results of the research are presented on Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

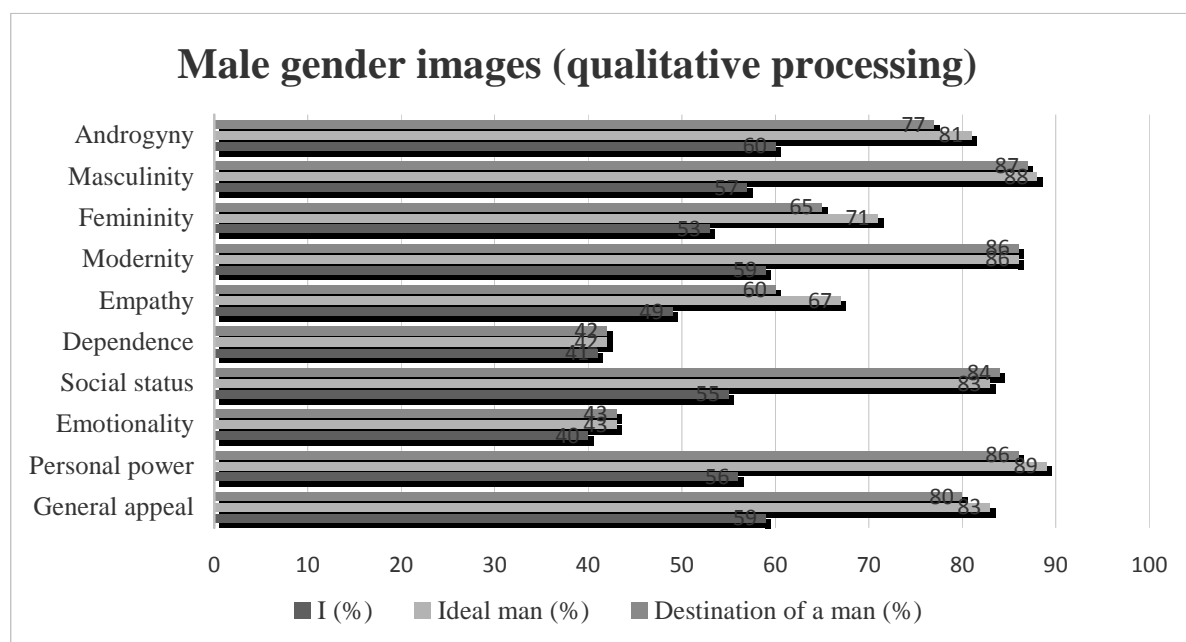


Fig. 1. Male gender images

The most negative gender image of female respondents is "Most men", image "Most women" contains both positive and negative characteristics. Young men's most negative image is "Most women". The image "Most men" also contains a lot of negative characteristics which indicates a mismatch of actual behavior with initially formed gender stereotypes. Their own image "I" among male respondents was described as an average relatively to positivity of characteristics (53% on average at the presence of positive personal characteristics). Their own image was described as the prevalence of androgynous characteristics. As well as "Ideal" image was presented as prevalence of masculine and androgynous characteristics.

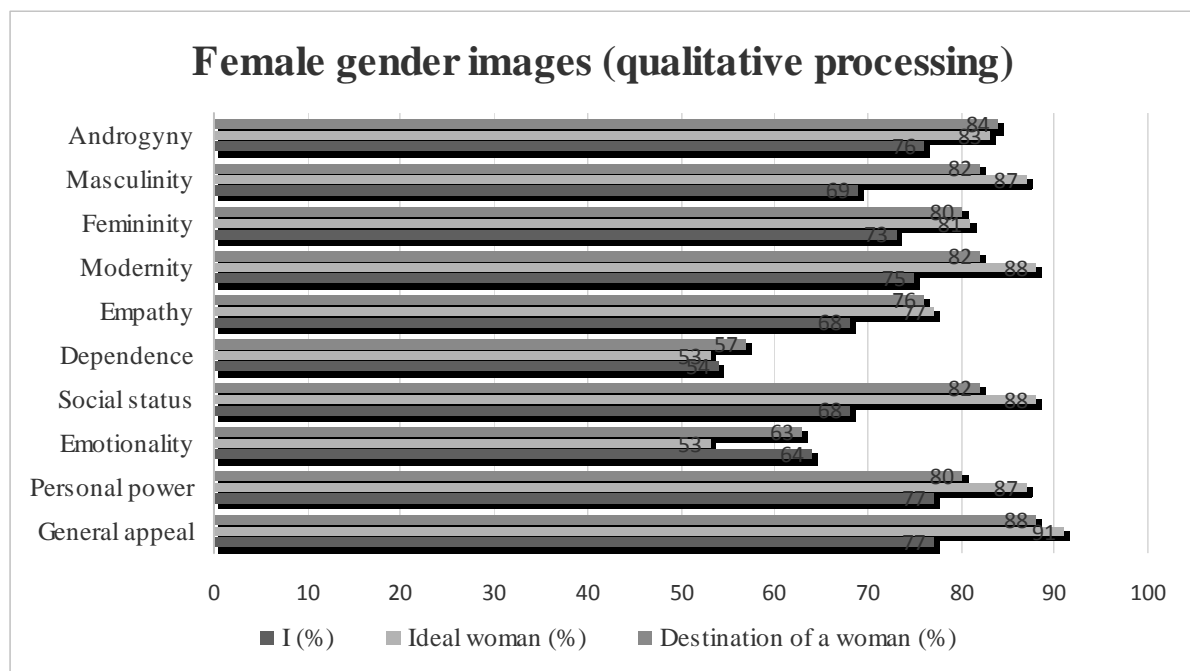


Fig. 2. Female gender images

At the same time female respondents positively described image “I” (on average 70%). Their own image was described as androgynous but at the same time masculinity as attributed more than femininity of their person. In “Ideal” image masculine characteristics prevail, feminine characteristics are measured relatively low.

Based on the research results we can say that the stereotypical image if a male gender image is more stable and rigid. But there are positive trends to the androgynous image as more flexible. Female gender image doesn't reject the acceptance of changes, it is more variable but at the same time relatively low rating of femininity and orientation to masculinity largely reflects modern female image of success through denial of historically accepted social roles and characteristics in our society. Characteristics: “dependence” and “emotionality” are rated by male and female respondents very low in comparison with other characteristics that may indicate a rejection of these features of personality. Emotionality has become a more negative personal characteristic, which negatively impact on psychological processes, on understanding in the interaction with others and on expression of personality. Personal power and modernity, which relate to traditionally male characteristics, are the most preferred factors in both genders.

The results of the research showed that the degree of differences between gender images “I”, “Ideal woman” (“Ideal Man”), “Destination of a woman” (“Destination of a man”) have statistically authentic positive correlation with such factors of personal disadaptation as self-rejection, emotional discomfort, escapism, dependence on others, disadaptation. Demonstration of personal factors of disadaptation depends on respondents' sex and differences in descriptions of gender characteristics. Young men with such factors as self-rejection, emotional discomfort and escapism are inclined to disadaptation in a greater level. Research of interrelation showed that young men's significant difference between images “I” and “Ideal man” causes Self-rejection ($p = 0,05$), Emotional Discomfort ($p = 0,01$), Escapism ($p = 0,01$), Disadaptation ($p = 0,05$). Significant difference between images “Ideal man” and “Destination of a man” causes Self-rejection ($p = 0,05$). Girls have significant difference between images “I” and “Ideal Woman” leads to Self-rejection ($p = 0,01$). Significant difference between images “I” and “Destination of a woman” leads to Self-rejection ($p = 0,05$) and Dependence on others ($p = 0,05$). Based on this data we can make a conclusion: the larger the difference between these images, the higher the demonstration of the disadaptation level.

Based on quantitative data processing of “Socio-psychological adaptation method” (Fig. 3) we can make a conclusion that young men's disadaptation is expressed more than girl's (32% and 29% of high level, respectively). Young men's disadaptation is clearly expressed by the following factors: self-rejection, rejection of other people and escapism. Emotional discomfort, expectation of external control and escapism are typical of girls.

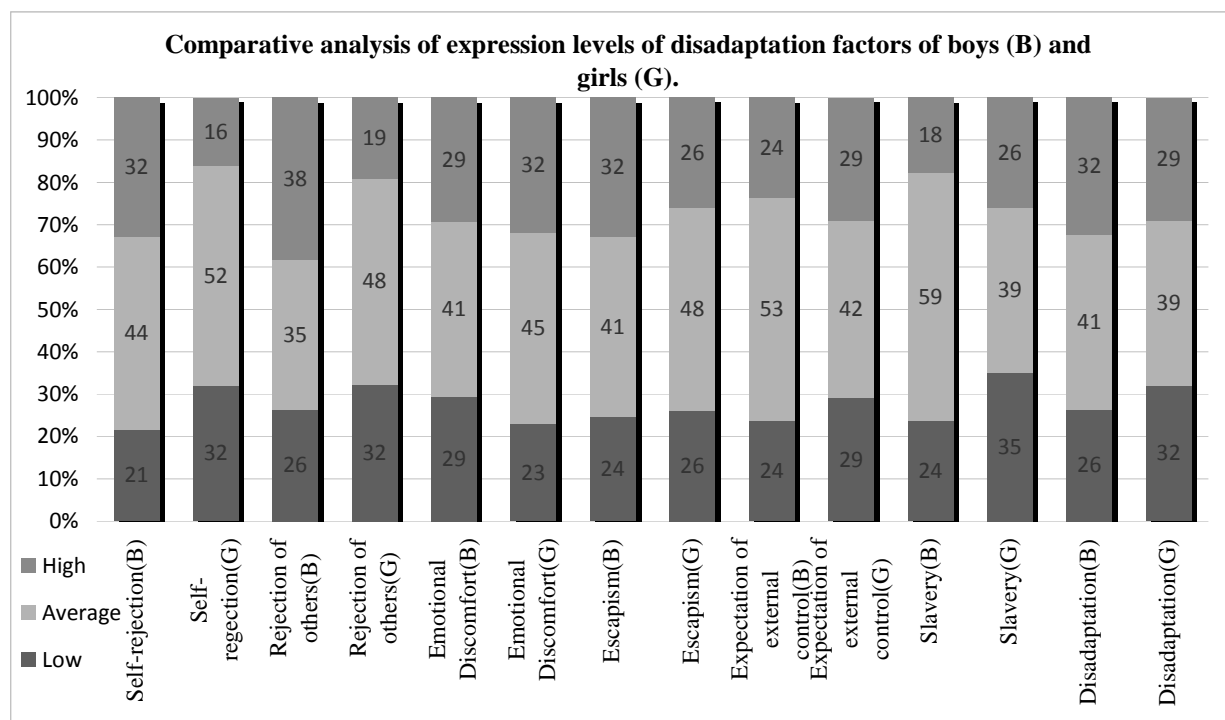


Fig. 3. Expression levels of disadaptation factors

The above results of our survey show the interrelation of personal gender characteristics with socio-psychological disadaptation of students of both genders. Differences in gender images indicate a high level of socio-psychological disadaptation with such factors as self-rejection, emotional discomfort, escapism with lowering the stereotyping level, dissatisfaction by mismatch of existing gender characteristics of own personality and historically, men's and women's roles. Predominant disadaptation factor is self-rejection which is also correlated with clear difference between gender images "I" and "Ideal man". Also the following differences in expression of disadaptation factors were identified:

1. Young men's disadaptation is expressed more clearly and in more factors compared with girls.
2. Feminine qualities are considered as undesirable by boys and girls and are perceived negatively.
3. Masculine qualities are considered as desirable and acceptable by both sexes and are perceived positively.

Thereby, the perception of gender characteristics in adolescence is of paramount importance. Change in gender images and their discrepancy with historical traditions implies socio-psychological disadaptation. Especially it concerns the acceptance criteria of images "I" and "Another". Psychological tracking of adolescence should consider gender features of modern youth, formation of images of men and women in modern world where masculinity and femininity exist as outdated stereotypic phenomena, but at the same time still alive in many cultural and educational aspects. Discrepancies and mismatches create preconditions for socio-psychological disadaptation, which is background for not only intrapersonal but also interpersonal conflicts. Attention should be paid to work with images creation on different stages of ontogenesis, to emergence of negative effects of mismatches in gender images and, in the future, to work to prevent the expression of factors of socio-psychological disadaptation of a person. Also the work with young men in the direction of personal growth training to identify and to research factors of disadaptation is needed.

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UDC 327

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY**KAMAL MAKILI-ALIYEV****Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan**

Azerbaijan is at the crossroads between East and West. Its geopolitical location is both its challenge and its major asset. This paper analyses the general state of relations of Azerbaijan with its largest and geopolitically important neighbors.

Foreign policy of Azerbaijan, the state that has regained its independence only twenty-one years ago, can be well considered unique in a large scale of international relations. Indeed, for the landlocked, predominantly Muslim country, that is on the political map of Europe and has a post-soviet history, in conjunction with neighborhood that includes Russia, Iran and Turkey, effective foreign policy is not just an international relations instrument – it is a survival tool.

At the same time, such a geopolitical location provides a lot of opportunities. From the time of reestablishment of its independence, Azerbaijan was set exactly towards taking its chances with such opportunities. Located on the cross-roads of the major trade and energy routes between East and West and maintaining secularity of the state with Muslim heritage, Azerbaijan is a natural bridge between Europe and Asia, Muslim and Christian worlds and gateways to energy and transportation corridors for the whole region in which it's located. Such situation determines Azerbaijan as one of the most strategic states of former Soviet Union in terms of both regional and international security. Moreover, when it comes to the economic integration, the role of Azerbaijan in transit of hydrocarbons from the Caspian basin has also to be taken into account.

Being a part of South Caucasus, Azerbaijan ultimately is a part of the geopolitical area where regional powers such as Russia, Turkey and Iran have their economic and political interests. After reestablishing its independence Azerbaijan found itself in very complicated geopolitical regional framework. Engaged in the international armed conflict, Azerbaijan's fate depended a lot on its larger neighbors named above as well as on the handling of the armed conflict with Armenia. The foreign policy towards each of these states took its rightful part in shaping Azerbaijani state to its present form.

Presently the number one strategic partner for Azerbaijan is undoubtedly Turkey. Turkish-Azerbaijani relations have thrived since Turkey have recognized newly independent Azerbaijan in 1991 and was a first state to do so. Turkey and Azerbaijan are currently linked with projects that span political, military, economic, cultural and social spheres, while ties between peoples of these two states can be described only by the notion that is in the core of foreign policy of Azerbaijan towards Turkey: "One nation, two states". Energy cooperation in Azerbaijan-Turkey relations is essential. Two pipelines that deliver oil and gas are linking Azerbaijan with Turkey via Georgia. Thus, Turkey plays an essential role in transit of hydrocarbons from the Caspian towards European markets. Ties in energy cooperation are so close, that experts point out that they are moving from classical "low politics" relations to "high politics".[1, p. 83] Supremacy of the energy cooperation in relations with Turkey can be challenged only by relations in military field. Taking into account that Turkey after the inception of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has closed its border with Armenia, supporting Azerbaijan in establishing semi-blockade of the aggressor-state, it was inevitable that Turkey would be interested in assisting Azerbaijan in bolstering its military capacity. Thousands of Azerbaijani military officers and non-commissioned officers have acquired their military education in Turkey. Being a NATO member, Turkey assists Azerbaijan in the development of its armed forces to the highest standards promoted by the Alliance, thus creating favorable atmosphere for Azerbaijan's relations with NATO.

At the same time, linked so close with Georgia, both states of Azerbaijan and Turkey are interested in the development of regional projects and maintenance of energy security in the region. It is worth mentioning that the interests of Turkey to become the regional energy hub are largely supported in Azerbaijan. Energy projects and close cooperation in developing economy-friendly energy policies are the trademarks of Azerbaijan-Turkey