



A NEW VIEW OF AGGRESSIVENESS IN ADOLESCENCE

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The paper printed in this issue, following on this introduction, may require some comments. Professor M. Choynowski was the leading Polish psychometrician, working in Warsaw when he had to leave the country because of his strongly anti-communist views, and the excellent record in research and theory making of his students reflects favourably on his teaching. He had very wide interests, particularly in the artistic sphere (painting, photography), and is married to a professional painter who went with him to Mexico, where he is now employed as a professor of psychology. He has for long been interested in aggressiveness, and has presented the major results of his wide-ranging research in his latest book, *Estructura Factorial de la Agresividad con Perspectivas de Interpretación Psicológica y Biopsicológica*, published by Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, in Mexico. The book is in Spanish, of course, but the title will be intelligible even to those not familiar with the language.

In view of the importance of his work, and because few Anglo-American readers refer to anything not written in English, I asked Mieczyslaw (or Mike, as he is known to his English and American friends, among whom I am happy to call myself) to prepare a lengthy summary in English for publication in *Personality and Individual Differences*. In spite of his advanced age, he agreed, but fate intervened and suffering from very poor vision for some time, he finally became unable to read, and had to rely on the help of his wife, not herself a psychologist, to complete the paper. Inevitably it required a large amount of linguistic and other changes and corrections, and Sybil and I have tried to provide such help as we could, in an attempt to make the paper represent his ideas and results as clearly as possible. If there are any errors or infelicities left, the fault is ours.

It may be appropriate to review the book briefly here, as an introduction to the paper itself. Essentially it is concerned with the structure of the factor space of aggressiveness, deriving the data from a long continued series of item and factor analyses of altogether 940 items, culled from existing questionnaires or specifically written for the purpose, and based on a wide reading of the literature. All this is described in some detail. Spanish adolescents of both sexes furnished the sample from whose responses the data were derived. This elaboration of the scales constitutes the first chapter, the final factor analyses the second, and a discussion of the scales and factors the third. Chapter four leads up to an interpretation of the factors, Chapter five discusses different types of aggression in men and animals, while Chapter six deals with the nature–nurture problem. Chapters seven through ten deal respectively with the four major factors—rebelliousness, spontaneous aggression, intra-aggressiveness, and irritable aggressiveness. The final chapter pulls together the whole set of results and interpretations.

As one might have expected from a master of psychometric techniques, the statistical treatment is exemplary. There are 13 major primary factors, and these are shown by Scree test to reduce to four superfactors, as listed above. For the most part these agree with results reported by previous workers, but as the author points out, the factor of *rebelliousness* is relatively new, particularly in the context of aggressiveness. It was particularly interesting to me that a version of the Lie Scale, which we had always considered as a measure of conformity, had the highest (negative) loading on the rebelliousness factor: 0.94! The simple structure to which the four factors were rotated by direct oblimin is not perfect, but acceptable. Intercorrelations between the four factors range from 0.58 down to 0.26; there clearly is a general factor here which finds its highest expression in the rebelliousness factor—not perhaps the outcome one would have expected in a sea of aggressiveness items! This study is the clearest indication that the Lie Scale does actually measure a non-conformist, rebellious aspect of behaviour; its negative correlation with psychoticism already suggested as much, and the similarity of the

concepts of rebelliousness and psychoticism is indeed striking. Choynowski has discussed his interpretation of rebelliousness in his article, and I will not deal with it here. Let me only note that Choynowski stresses the positive side of rebelliousness, i.e. the creative performances of artists and scientists who rebel against the *status quo*. This aspect of his theory is well substantiated in the theories linking creativity and psychoticism, theories which have found good empirical support (Eysenck, 1993, 1995).

Choynowski's good judgment as far as psychometric techniques are concerned is equalled by his psychological insight when he considers the psychological meaning of his factors, in their evolutionary and biological determination. There is much that is novel in his account, and it provides a definite step forward in an area that has been rather void of novel ideas in recent years. The paper here published will serve as an introduction to the book which of course goes into much greater detail than would be possible in an article. It will serve as a memento of an outstanding psychologist who strove with great courage to serve science under a regime determined to destroy everything science stands for, and who rebuilt his life and work in exile, and under great difficulties.

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