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Coping with bullying behavior: The role of Eysenck's personality dimensions and arousability trait

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Abstract

The_objective_of_this_study_was_to_investigate_the_relationship_between_Eysenck's_personality_traits, trait arousability and coping_strategies_with_bullying_behaviour. This_study_was_conducted_among 372 elementary_school_children_from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Personality_dimensions_were_explored_by_the Junior Eysenck Personality_Questionnaire. Arousal_level_was_assessed_by_the_Arousal_Predisposition Scale, and coping_strategies_with_bullying_behaviour_by_the_Self — Report_Coping_Measure. The_results showed_that_Neuroticism_and_Tendency_to_dissimulation_had_significant_correlations_with_trait arousability. Significant_correlations_were_also_found_between_all_subscales_of_coping_strategies and self-report_arousal_measure. Arousal_predicted_a significant_proportion_of_variance_of_all_examined_coping strategies. Social support_seeking and externalizing_strategies_were_significantly_predicted_by_Psychoticism and Tendency_to_dissimulation, while_internalizing_strategy_by_all_examined_personality_dimensions. These findings are discussed in terms_of_how_personality_dimensions and arousability are associated_with_various coping_strategies.

Keywords: Eysenck's_personalitydimensions; Traitarousability; Copingstrategies; Bullying.

1. Introduction

Arousal_levels_represent_various_states_of_consciousness_related_with_various_activities (Eysenck & Gudjonsson, 1989). Although_individual's_level_of_arousal_changes_through_out_the_day, every individual has own_basic_level, ranging_from_mild_to intense (Eysenck &_Gudjonsson, 1989). Coren (1990) stated_that_this individual difference in arousal_level_may be perceived as a 'personality_trait', or a arousal_predisposition.

A few_attempts_have_been_to_directly examine_arousability. Kohn et al. (1987) emphasized use of physiological_measurements_or_self-report_measurements. Physiological_measures_include_indices_of cortical activity (e.g. EEG) and indices of autonomic_activity (e.g. skin conductance, heartrate, etc.). According_to Coren (1988), self-report_measures_reflect general subjective_perception_of_affective_state.

Arousability is a component of personality trait in Eysenck's (1967, 1970, 1981) model of personality. Specifically, Eysenck postulated that Extraversionis related with cortical arousability, while Neuroticism with autonomic arousability (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1985). This assumption has been supported by neuroimaging studies (Barry et al., 2011; De Cesarei, & Codispoti, 2011; Kumari et al., 2004; O'Gorman et al., 2006). Furthermore, according to Eysenck's theory, extraverts are more positive, outgoing, social, active and careless (Burger, 2000). Unlike extraverts, introverts are known as quieter, more thoughtful, controlled, and careful (Burger, 2000). These differences between extraverts and introverts cause their differently cope with stress situation (Posella, 2006). Some studies revealed that those high on dimension of Extraversion have more positive affect and engagement coping than those low on Extraversion (Lues et al., 2010).

There are several_types_of_strategies_which_people use to cope with_stressful_situations. Emotion focused_coping_strategy as a passive_way_of_coping_is_characterized_by_expressing negative feelings and thoughts_related_with_stressful_situation_or_problem. It_is_mostly_used_to reduce anxiety_about a situation (Burger, 2000).

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Avoidant_coping_strategy_also_represent_passive_way_of_coping_which_occurs_when a person tries to manage_own_awareness_with_the_purpose_to_alleviate_undesirable_emotions. People attempt to overlook stimuli in order_to reduce their_level_of_stimulation_or stress (Appelhans_&_Schmeck, 2002). Problem-focused strategy_is_an active way_of_coping_which_used_to_decrease stress and anxiety_by_actively_dealing_with_the current_problem (Burger, 2000). Emotion-focused_strategies as a coping_style_may be useful_to_choose_when there_is_not_possible_to_manage stress, but do provide_only_temporary_reduction_of_distress (Snooks, 2009; Taylor, 2012).

Each_personality has own_manner_to deal with_the_stressful_situations and usually use those_strategies which_correspond_to_their_needs. It has been_found_that_introverts and extroverts use different_coping stress strategies. Extroverts_mostly use adaptive coping_strategies_which_involve_taking control of_the stress by dealing_with a situation_that causes stress (Afshar et al., 2015; Bakker et al., 2006; Bosworth et al., 2001; Carver & Connor-Smith, 2010). The_findings_from meta-analysis_which_comprises 165 studies and led by Connor-Smith and Flachsbart (2007) indicated_that_Extraversion_predict_problem-focused_coping, coping_by social support and cognitive restructuring_coping.

Unlike_extroverts, introverts use mostly_passive_maladaptive_strategies, such as avoidance, distraction etc. (Bosworth et al., 2001). Introversion_is_of_ten_equated_with_Neuroticism_(Bradly, 1996) for_which_was_also confirmed_relationship_with_passive_coping (Mairet et al., 2014).

The_vast_majority_of_researches_about_coping_processes_have_examined_coping_strategies_for_various personality_dimensions. There_have_not_been_any_direct_studies_of_the interactive predicative role of_biological factors, such as arousal, and individual factors in coping_process_with_bullying_behavior as a specific_stressor. By_such_research_we_would_find_potential_contribution_of_physiological and individual factors in specific_types of_coping_strategies_during stress such as various_forms_of_bullying.

The general aim_of_this_study_is_to_investigate_the_relationship_between_Eysenck's_dimensions_of personality, trait_arousability and coping_mechanisms in a sample_of_primary_school_children and to determine if_personality_dimensions and arousability can predict_specific_coping_styles in bullying.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants

This_cross-sectional_study_was_conducted_among 372 elementary_school_children (192 girls and 180 boys) from_Široki_Brijeg, aged 10 to 14 years (M = 12.30, SD = 1.64). The_information_sheet_was_provided_to the_participants and contained_information_about_the_aim_of_the_study as well as contact_for_information_if they_wanted_to_ask_questions_to_the_investigat_or_later_on. They_had_an_appropriate_amount_of time to_read_the sheet as well as to_ask_questions. Completion_of_the_questionnaire_represented_an_indication_that_participants gave_consent_to_participate in the_study. The_Ministry_of_Education, Culture and Sports_of West Herzegovina County, Bosnia and Herzegovina has approved_the_study.

2.2. Measures

Personality_dimension. Junior Eysenck Personality_Questionnaire (Junior EPQ) is_inventory_of_the basic_dimensions_of_personality in children_aged_between 7 to 15 years. Junior EPQ contains 81 items, which are divided_into 4 scales. These_are_Extraversion- Introversion(E) scale (24 items), Neuroticism-emotional stability (N) (20 items), Psychoticism (P) scale (17 items) and the_Tendency_to_dissimulation_or lie (L) scale (20 items). Each_item can get_one_point and the_maximum total score is_equal_to_the_number_of_items_on_each scale.

Arousal. The Arousal Predisposition Scale (APS) (Coren, 1988; Coren, 1990; Coren & Mah, 1993) was developed to assess trait arousal level. The APS is a self-report measurement of individual differences in arousal. Scalecontains 12 items where all items are scored 1 to 5 based on the subject's response (1-never, 2-not often, 3-occasionally, 4-frequently, 5-always), expect the first negative item that is scored reversed. A total score of arousal is obtained by summing the 12 items scores. The total range of score was 12 to 60, with 12 indicating lower level of arousal and a score of 60 indicating higher over all level of arousal. Previous research in a Croatian primary school children sample has confirmed a one-factor structure and satisfactory internal consistency of APS (Simić et al., 2012).

Coping_strategies. An_adapted_version_of_the_Self-report_Coping_Measure (SRCM; Causey_&_Dubow, 1992) was_used_to_investigate_coping_strategies_to_direct and verbal/relational (hypothetical) forms_of_bullying. Itis a 34-item self-report_measurement_divided_into_five_subscales: Seeking Social Support, Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving, Internalizing, Externalizing and Distancing. Three_subscales, Seeking Social Support, Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving, and Distancing are labelled as approach_strategies, while_others (Internalizing and Externalizing) as avoidance_strategies. In the SRCM, following_examples_of_questions_were used: "When I get a bad grade in school, one_worse_than I normally_get, I usually..." and "When I have_an argument_or a fight_with a friend, I usually...." Participants_answered_to_all_items_using_the_five-point Likert scale, ranging_from 1 (never) to 5 (always).

To keep our scale which asses coping to five forms of bullying, to a manage able size we used four items_for_each_of_the_subscale. The total scale_consisted_of 20 items. The_items_selected_were as follows: for Seeking Social Support, "Get_help_from a friend", "Ask a family_member_for_advice", "Ask someone_who has had_this_problem_what he or_she_would do", "Talk_to_the_teacher_about_it"; for_Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving, "Try to_think_of_different_ways_to_solve_it", "Change something so things_will_workout", "Know there are things I can do to_make_it_better", "Try extra hard_to_keep_this_from happening again"; for Distancing, "Make_believe_nothing_happened", "Forget_whole_thing", "Tell myself_it_doesn't_matter", "Refuse to_think_about_it"; for_Internalizing, "Become so upset_that I can't_talk_to_anyone", "Worry_too_much_about it", "Cry_about_it", "Just feel_sorry_for_myself"; and for_Externalizing, "Take_it_out_on_others_because I feel sad_or_angry", "Yell to_let off steam", "Course_out_loud", "Get_mad and throw_or hit something". In this adapted_version_of_the SRCM, children_were_asked_to_answer_on_following_question "Everyone_of_us sometimes hurt other people. We are interested in how you feel and what you do when somebody hurt you (take_your personal belongings, threatening_you, shock you, call_you_ugly_names_or_says_bad_things_about_you, do not_want_hangout_with_you, etc...)." In this_research factor analysis_with_varimax_rotation_for_the SRCM yielded 4 factors: Seeking Social Support and Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving ($\alpha = .73$), Internalizing ($\alpha = .63$), Distancing ($\alpha = .60$) and Externalizing ($\alpha = .71$). The alpha coefficient for the entire questionnaire was $\alpha = .71$.

2.3. Procedure

Children_participating in the_study_were_surveyed at school. Before_the_study_was_conducted, researchers_obtained parental and school_authorities_consent_for_inclusion_of_pupils in their_study. After that, one_of_the_researchers_presented_himself_to_the_pupils, orally_explained_to_them_the_aim_of_the_study and informed_them_that_their response will be kept_anonymous. Then_pupils_had 45 minutes to complete the questionnaires_during_the_class_period. After pupils_had_filled_out_the_questionnaires, they_were_asked_to place them in envelopes and put_it in the_cardboard box.

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Results_of_the_Komogorov-Smirnov test showed_that data of_personality_dimensions, trait arousability and coping_strategies_were_normally_distributed. Pearson's_correlation_coefficients_for_each_of_the four-personality_dimension and trait_arousalbility_were_also_calculated (Table 1). There_was_significant positive relationship_between_level_of_Neuroticism_and_Coren's_measure_of_arousal_while negative correlation_was found_between_Tendency_to_dissimulation_or Lie scale and arousal_level.

Correlations_between_Self-report_Coping_strategies and arousal_showed_that_Internalizing, Distancing and Externalizingcopingstrategiessignificantlycorrelatewithlevelofarousal (Table 1).

Table 1. Pearson's correlation coefficients between Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire, Self-report Coping Measure Subscale and Arousal Predisposition Scale.

Arousal Predisposition So					
Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Subscales					
Extraversion	.10				
Neuroticism	.52*				
Psychoticism	.10				
Lie scale	03*				

Self-report Coping Measure Subscale		
Seeking Social Support and		
Self- Reliance/Problem-Solving	.13*	
Internalizing	.50***	
Distancing	.26***	
Externalizing	.39***	

Note: *p<.05; ***p<.001.

In additional_analyses, we_examined_correlation_between_personality_dimensions and coping_strategies (Table 2). Results_showed_that_Neuroticism positive correlate_with_Internalizing and Externalizing_coping strategies. Positive correlation_was_also_found_between_Psychoticism and Externalizing_coping_strategies, as well as Tendency_to_dissimulation and Seeking Social Support and Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving. Only_the correlations_between_Psychoticism and Seeking Social Support and Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving, Tendency to_dissimulation and Internalizing, as well as Tendency_to_dissimulation and Externalizing_were negative.

Table 2. Pearson's correlation coefficients between Self-report Coping Measure Subscale and Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Subscales.

Self-report Coping Measure Subscale	Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Subscales				
	Extraversion	Neuroticism	Psychoticism	Lie scale	
Seeking Social Support and					
Self- Reliance/Problem-	03	07	47***	.38***	
Solving					
Internalizing	10	.48***	.02	19***	
Distancing	.05	.10	.10	08	
Externalizing	.15*	.31**	.44***	55***	

Note: *p<.05; **p<.01. ***p<.001.

To_assess_whether_personality_dimensions and arousal can predict_coping_strategies, we_performed a standard regression_analysis. We_decided_to examine single prediction_of_Eyscenck_personality_dimensions and trait_arousability_although_some_dimensions, such as Extraversion, are not_related_with_arousal in this study. According_to Eysenck theory, Extraversion_is_related_to_low cortical arousal, but central characteristic of_this_dimension_involves_the_frequency_of_experiencing_affective_states_which are related_to_seeking_situation that_will_finally_increase_arousal. Unlike, Eyseck's_arousal_construct, trait_arousability_is_not_situation-specific.

In this_study scores on_the_Self-report_Coping_Measure_subscales (Seeking Social Support and Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving, Distancing, Internalizing and Externalizing) were_analysed as criterion variables. Predictor variables were_personality_dimensions (Extraversion, Neuroticism, Psychoticism and Tendency_to dissimulation) and trait_arousability. The_results_of_regression_analysis are reported in Table 3. The_results showed_that_Psychoticism, Tendency_to_dissimulation and arousal_explain 27% of_the_variance_of_criterion variable Seeking Social Support and Self-Reliance/Problem-Solving_Furthermore, Extraversion, Neuroticism, Tendency_to_dissimulation and arousal_were_found_to be significant_predictors_of_Internalizing. For_this strategy, predictive variables explained 32% of_variance. Described set of_predictors_explained 7% of_the variance_of_Distancing and only_arousal_reached_statistical_significance_of_prediction. For_Externalizing, 41% of_variance_was_explained_by_Psychoticism, Tendency_to_dissimulation and arousal.

Table 3. Standard regression coefficients for predicting coping strategies in stressful situation.

Dependent variable	Group of predictors	R	\mathbb{R}^2	Predictors in the final model	β
Seeking Social	Junior Eysenck Personality	.52	.27	Psychoticism	34***
Support and Self-	Questionnaire Subscales			Tendency to	.23***
Reliance/Problem-	Arousal Predisposition Scale			dissimulation	•

Solving				Arousal	19***
Distancing	Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Subscales Arousal Predisposition Scale	.26	.07	Arousal	.25***
Internalizing	Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Subscales Arousal Predisposition Scale	.57	.32	Extraversion Neuroticism Tendency to dissimulation	17*** .30*** 12*
Externalizing	Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Subscales Arousal Predisposition Scale	.64	.41	Arousal Psychoticism Tendency to dissimulation Arousal	.30*** .24*** 34***

Note: R = multiple_correlation_coefficient, R^2 = coefficient_of_multiple_determination (explained_variance), β =standardized beta coefficients; *p<.05; ***p<.001.

4. Discussions

The_results_of_our_study_showed_that_personality_dimensions, Neuroticism_and_Tendency_to dissimulation are related_with_trait_arousability. Significant and positive relationship_between_Neuroticism_and trait_arousability_is in line with Eysenck personality_dimension_theory (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1985) which postulates_higher_arousal_level in neurotic's_individuals as a consequence_of_emotion-inducing_stimulation through_limbic_circuit. According_to Eysenck theory, differences in arousal_level_between_neurotics and stable individuals are most_evident in stressful_situations (Maltby et al., 2010). However, the_main_problem_with theory_of_personality_is_related_with_the_inconsistent_evidence. Matthews and Gilliland (1999) states_when considering EEG research's_it has been_found a weak_association_between_personality_dimension and arousal. AuthorsarguedthatlittleevidenceofcorrelationbetweenNeuroticismandarousal can be theresultoftoosimplifiedbiologicaltheoryofpersonalitydimensions. Our_explanation can be more specific. It_is possible_that_self-report_measures_of_arousal_reflect_the_action_of_sympathetic_autonomic_nervous_system which_induced_changes in cortical arousal. Non-significant_correlation_between_Extraversion and arousal_also support_this_interpretation_since_it_is_well-know_that_Extraversionis_caused_by_variability in cortical arousal.

In this_research_significant negative association_was_found_between_Tendency_to_dissimulation expressing_on lie scale and arousal. There is extensive empirical_support_to_suggest_that_individuals_with a higher_motivation_to_fake_good_inflate_their responses on lie scale and suppress_their_level_of_arousal, resulting in a negative relationship_between_two_measures. This_relationship has been_confirmed_to_exists_evena_mong children (Eysenck et al., 1971; Eysenck, Syed, & Eysenck, 1965) and adults (Braun &_Gomez, 1966; Cowles et al., 1992; Levin &_Montag, 1987; Michaelis_& Eysenck, 1971; Rump_&_Court, 1971). Paulhus and Levitt (1987) have_found_that_socially_desirable_responding_may be mediated_by_high_arousal_or_automatic_attentional mechanism. The_first_suggest_that_affect_triggers_arousal_which_facilitates_dominant_responses and debilitates subordinate responses. In the case of_trait_endorsements, dominant responses are viewed as socially_desirable response. In our_study_there_is no direct_evidence_that_the_high_arousal_should_enhance_respond in socially desirable_fashion_since_we_did_not_manipulate_with_affective_states. Furthermore, arousal_was_operationalized as a trait, but_not as a state. The_latter_suggest_that_impression_management_may be automatic and unintentional_defensiveness_elicited_by_threat.

Our data revealed_low_to_moderate positive_-correlations_between_arousal and coping_strategies. Avoidance_coping_strategies, internalizing and externalizing_were_highest_related_to_arousal. Previous_studies have_consistently_shown_that_avoidance_strategies lead to_an_increase in the_arousal_which has counterproductive_effect_on_stressful_situations (Campbell-Sill_& Barlow, 2007; Hofmann et al., 2009). Persons_high_on_avoidance are likely_to be anxious. Their_susceptibility_to stress is_high_due_to_uncertainty and emotional_arousal in aversive situations (Hentschel et al., 2004). Furthermore, studies_have_shown_that_other strategies, such as approach_strategies, are related_with_arousal_but_they are more effective in coping_with stress. These_strategies reduce arousal_level and consequently_level_of_anxiety (Campbell-Sills et al., 2006a, 2006b; Hofmann et al., 2009). Blackwell (2012) has been_suggested_that_arousal_is_one_potential_determinant of_coping_strategies.

Based_on cognitive interference_theories (e.g. cognitive-behavioral_theories) and functional_emotion theories (e.g. cognitive appraisal_theories_of_emotions) the_author_hypothesizes_that_emotional and physiological_arousal has a role of_giving_meaning_to_situations (e.g. situation_of_threat), as well as motivate a strategy_which_maintain_desirable_or reduce undesirable_condition (e.g. avoiding_the_threat). Indeed, results_of present_study_suggest_that_arousal_may be interpreted as a part_of_coping_strategies. Regarding_the_population of_primary_school_children, high_arousal_may_promote_disengaged_coping (i.e., pretending_the_situation_did not_happen, aggressive_behavior) responses.

Some_others_researches (Monat, 1976; Monat et al., 1972) have_shown_that_expectation_about_the beginning_of_stressful_situation_moderates_relationship_between_coping_strategies and arousal. Authors showed_that_participants_who do not_know at the_beginning_whatever and when_will_stressful_traumatic_event occur_had_high_baseline_arousal_level_which_had_reduced_during_the_study. During_high_arousal_level participants_were more prone to use approach_strategies, while_during_period_of_decreasing_arousal_began_to use avoidance_strategies. This_research_showed_that in situations_where_it_is_known_when_stressful_event_will happen, baseline_arousal_was_lower and began_to_increase_later. Under_situation_of_low_arousal_participants used_mostly_avoidance_strategies, while_under_situation_of_higher_arousal_tended to use approach_coping strategies.

Results_of_this_study are partially_consistent_with_the_previous_research (Connor-Smith &_Flachsbart, 2007; De Longis__&__Holtzman, 2005; Dunkley et al., 2014; Leandro & Castillo, 2010) whichshowedsignificantpredictionofeachpersonalitydimensiononcopingstrategies in stressful_situation.

Obtained_results_of_our_study_indicate_that_there_is_significant_correlation_between_Extraversion and Externalizing_avoidance_strategy, as well as significant_prediction_of_Extraversion_to_Internalizing_strategy. Previous_research (Connor-Smith &_Flachsbart, 2007; Gomez et al., 1999; Lengua et al., 1999; Vollrath, 2001) has shown_that_extroversion's role in stress and coping_is_not_completely_clear. The_majority_of_researches (Endler_& Parker; 1990; McCrae_& Costa, 1986; Parkes, 1986; Rim, 1986) on_adults and adolescents_have shown_that_Extraversion_positively_correlate_with_problem-focused_coping_strategies_like_rational_action, thinking in a positive way, and restraint. Some_other_researches (Gallagher, 1990; Kardum_&_Krapić, 2001; Matthews et al., 2003; McCrae_& Costa, 1986; Parkes, 1986; Penley_&_Tomaka, 2002) have_shown_that Extraversion_is_usually_positively_related_with positive and challenge_appraisal_of_stressful_situations and perception_of_higher_control_under_the_situation. Unclear_relationship_between_Extraversion_and coping strategies_may_indicate_that_personality_dimensions are not_the_only_factors_that_influence_on_coping_strategies. Research_should_include_and_other_determinants_of_coping. For_example, Folkman (1984) emphasize perceived control as an_indicator_of_coping_strategies.

Our_results_showed_that_Neuroticism_is_related_to_internalizing and externalizing_coping_strategies. According_to_some_research (Brdar_&_Bakarčić, 2006; Cimbolic-Gunther et al., 1999) Neuroticism_is a key dimension_associated_with_increased use of_certain_coping_strategies. Research has shown_that_Neuroticism_is negatively_correlated_with_the use of_some adaptive strategies_such as active and problem-focused_strategies (Costa et al., 1996), and positively_correlated_with_avoidance_strategies (Connor-Smith &_Flachsbart, 2007; Karimzade_&_Besharat, 2011; O'Brien &_DeLongis, 1996; Penley_&_Tomaka, 2002; Watson & Hubbard, 1996) as well as other_maladaptive_coping_strategies (e.g. escapist_fantasy, withdrawal, hostile_reactions, self-blame) (Penley_&_Tomaka, 2002). Additionally, individuals_with_higher_Neuroticism use more often_emotion-focused_coping_compared_to_individuals_with_lower_Neuroticism (Penley_&_Tomaka, 2002). Neurotic individual may use ineffective_coping_strategies, such as avoidance and withdrawal as an_attempt_to_minimize unpleasant_arousal (Connor-Smith &_Flachsbart, 2007).

Obtained_relationship_between_Neuroticism_and_internalizing, as well as externalizing_coping strategies_could be explained_by_transactional_theories_of stress (Endler_& Parker, 1990). The_theory postulates_that_highly_neurotic_individuals_exhibit_numerous_stressors as well as react_negatively_to_them. Many_of_the_coping_efforts_associated_with_Neuroticism_may_provide a common_construct, and indeed, McCrae and Costa (1986) formed a composite measure_of "neurotic" coping and "mature" coping. However, to_distinguish_coping_from_personality_trait_it can be developed_another_dichotomy_related_with "avoidant" reactions_since_they_avoid_taking_action in order_to_improve_the_problem_or_emotional_state.

It_should be emphasized_that_results_related_to_Neuroticism_needs_to be interpreted_with_caution because_of_several_reasons. Individuals_with_higher_Neuroticism_are also more aware_of_their_feelings and

more prone to_self-disclosure_compared_to_individuals_with_lower_Neuroticism (Watson & Clark, 1984), and hence_may_have more distress and problematic_coping_than_those_with_lower_Neuroticism (Afshar et al., 2015; Kaur et al., 2013).

In comparison_to_Extraversion and Neuroticism, relationship_between_Psychoticism and coping strategies_is_considerably_less_investigated. In our_research, we_obtain_significant positive relationship_between Psychoticism and externalizing_coping_strategies and significant negative associations_between_Psychoticism and seeking social support and self- reliance/problem-solving. The_results_suggest_that_people_high_on Psychoticism_tend_to_respond_to_bullying_using_maladaptive_coping_strategies_such as denial, aggressive reaction. Our_results are also in concordance_with_results_of_previous_research (Ebrahimi-Nejad_&_Ebrahimi-Nejad, 2006; Kardum_&_Hudek-Knežević, 1996) on_adult_subjects, which_showed_that_Psychoticism_is negatively_related_to_problem and emotion-focused_coping and positively_to_avoidance. However, some_other researches_did_not_found_significant_relationship_between_coping stress strategies and Psychoticism (Matthews et al., 2000). This_could be due_to_the_fact_that_Psychoticism_represents_many_factors, in comparison to the other traits (Eysenck et al., 1985). Zuckerman (1989) postulates_that_Psychoticism can be described as a supertrait_which has closely_linked_traits_such as impulsivity, poor_socialization, lack_of_responsibility, sensation_seeking, autonomy and aggression_which_may be there_as_on_of_obtained_differences in results_of previous_studies. This_finding_suggests_that_clinicians_should_pay more attention_to_improvement_of_coping skills in individuals_with_higher_level_of_Psychoticism.

It_is_worth_noting_that_results_on lie scale_significantly_positive_correlated_with_seeking social support and self-reliance/problem_solving, and negative with_externalizing. One_possible_explanation_could be that adaptive coping_strategies (e.g. problem_solving) are generally_perceived as desirable_traits_thus_being_saturated with_faking_despite_that_this_subscales_was_applied in a situation_of_induced_honest_responding. Similar to_this, if_we_assume_that_maladaptive_coping_strategies are related_with_less_desirable_traits_then_it_is_logical_to_expect and less_faking_on_item_of_such_strategies. The_obtained_results_of_negative_correlation_between lie scale and externalization_support_above_mentioned_hypothesis.

Generally, the results confirmed that coping strategies are associated to Eysenck personality traits, so that, already in early adolescent age, coping can be perceived in a larger dispositional context. Also, it should be noted that the relationship between personality traits and coping strategies is not so high to allow conclusion that coping strategies are determined only by personality traits. Our results support more hypotheses that coping styles are partly determined by personality traits. In accordance with this, we can conclude that the results acknowledge further importance of the role of personality traits in the coping process with stress as well as the concept of coping strategies in early adolescent age.

In summary, we_found_that_personality_dimension_Neuroticismis_related_with_trait_arousability_which may be a composite of_somatic and cognitive component_of_arousal. Also, our_result_revealed_significant prediction_both_personality_dimension and arousal_to_coping_strategies. However, our_conclusions are tempered_by_some_limitations_to_the_current_study. First, this_is_cross-sectional_conducted_study_which_does not_permit_inferences_about_causality. Future research_may_need_to use longitudinal study_design in order_to examine the_relationship_between_personality_dimensions, trait_arousability and coping. Second, the data are obtained_from_self-report_measures. For_example, we_used_only_self-completion_questionnaire_from_children to examine arousal. Future studies_need_to_apply a multi-informant_approach_using_other_measures_of_arousal, such as heartrate, cortisol and/or_adrenalin_level. Since_Arousal_Predisposition_Scale_measures_arousal as a trait and not as physiological_states_it_would be interesting_to_examined_combined_with_the_disposition_of arousal and arousal_psychological_fluctuations in predicting_coping stress strategies.

An_additional_limitation in the_assessment_is_related_with_coping_which_is_conducted_on retrospective self-report data without_using_some_other_sources_of data. In this_study_coping_with_specific stress type, such as bullying_was_examined. We found_that_all children were not exposed to bullying. Therefore, children's response to the coping measure may have been symptomatic of the moment. Furthermore, retrospective reports_of response to_specific_stressor are more prone to_bias_than_immediate_or_daily_coping_reports (Newth &_DeLongis, 2004). In future studies_it_would be useful_to use reports_from_parents_or_observers.

5. Conclusion

In <u>conclusion</u>, it_could be said_that_our_results_have_confirmed_significant_relationship_between Eysenck personality_dimensions, trait_arousability and coping stress strategies_with_bulling. Seeking social support and <u>problem</u>-solving_coping are predicted_by_Psychoticism, Tendency_to_dissimulation and Arousal_trait. These variables explained 27% of_variance.

Only_trait_arousability, but_not Eysenck personality_dimensions, is_explained 7% variance_of distancing. About 32% of_internalizing_variance_was_explained_by_three Eysenck dimensions (Extraversion, Neuroticism_and Tendency_to_dissimulation) and Coren's_Arousability_measure. Psychoticism_together_with arousal and Tendency_to_dissimulation_were_explained 41% of_externalizing.

6. References

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