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# Three-Component Model of Abuse in Interpersonal Communication

**Sergey A. Chuganskiy**
Moscow Service of Psychological Help to the Population, Moscow, Russian Federation
E-mail: psytherapy@yandex.ru
ORCID ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3346-3170

## Abstract

**Introduction**. One of the most relevant issues in practical psychology is the topic of abuse – manipulation, violence, and violation of personal boundaries of any kind. The purpose of this study is to provide a concise, structured view of communication abuse, expressed in a three-component model. The communication of abuse contains three components: asymmetry, variability, and purpose. The following hypotheses were verified: 1) the detection of abuse by the person in situations of interpersonal communication occurs with the simultaneous presence of all three components; 2) abuse communication can be identified more frequently (successfully) in case of a higher level of psychological competence.

**Methods**. To verify the hypotheses of the study, we created a questionnaire entitled Experimental Test for the Detection of Abuse. The sample of the study was comprised of 74 respondents aged 20 to 58 years, 34 of whom were professional psychologists (the group of 'psychologists') and 40 of whom were specialists of other professions (the group of 'non-psychologists'). The gender composition was as follows: 24 males and 50 females.

**Results**. The hypotheses verification showed the following results: 1) the empirical distribution of answers for the whole sample, as well as for the "psychologists" and "non-psychologists", does not differ from the theoretical one; 2) the results for the group of "psychologists" are significantly different from those obtained in the group of "non-psychologists".

**Discussion**. Both hypotheses of the study were confirmed: 1) the detection of abuse takes place in accordance with the proposed three-component abuse model; 2) psychological competence and other kinds of psychological activities reliably contribute to a more successful recognition of abuse.

**Conclusion**. In the article we formulated the conclusions about the correctness of the three-component abuse model and the influence of the level of psychological competence on the ability to determine abuse in social contacts. The presented model may become a method of analyzing communications of abuse and be used to correct them.

## Keywords

abuse, violence, manipulations, abuse criteria, social intelligence, emotional intelligence, interpersonal communications, psychological competence

## Highlights

► Abuse in interpersonal communication contains the following components: asymmetry, variability, and purpose.

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



► In most cases the process of detection of abuse in interpersonal communication takes place in the simultaneous presence of all three components.
► Professional psychologists recognize abuse in interpersonal communication more successfully than representatives of other specialties.
► Psychological education and increasing the level of psychological culture develop the ability to recognize abuse in interpersonal communication.
► The three-component model of abuse in interpersonal communication can be used for psychological education and help to analyze social interactions.

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## Introduction

These days the notion of interpersonal abuse can often be met in popular articles on relationships psychology, as well as in psychological texts intended for experts (Volkov, 2002; Gyuggenbyul', 2006; Miller, 2010; Orlov, 2000).

Systematization of contemporary views on the problem shows absence of a single position in the definitions and criteria for various kinds of violence and abuse (Orlov, 2000; Degtyarev, 2012). The very notions of *violence* and *abuse* are used in scholarly literature as mutually close, yet not equivalent (Efimova & Kovrov, 2015). They often stay in the relations of hierarchic inclusion: *abuse*, alongside such notions as *ill treatment* and *brutal treatment* (more often of children), is used as a broader notion as it includes all kinds of violence (Degtyarev, 2012; Gil, 1970; Green, 1980; Kempe, Silverman, Steele, Droegemueller, & Silver, 1962; Ruttenberg, 1990). These days they distinguish three basic types of violence: physical, sexual, and psychological. Economic violence is at times treated as a separate category (Romanova, 2013). Their definitions basically include enumerations of all possible acts against the victim, and their effects (damage) implicating all the key differences (Volkov, 2002; Orlov, 2000; Degtyarev, 2012; Ozhegov & Shvedova, 2006).

Interestingly, as Orlov (2000) states, the essence of any kind of violence is definitely psychological violence, which this author describes as a *nucleus* of any kind of violence. Thus, abuse in interpersonal communication, considered in this paper, is probably among the basic, elementary particles of psychological violence, making its essence. It is defined as exploitation by one person in the course of interaction with another person, which can do psychological or other harm, being based on manipulation, deceit, bullying and/or inability of this latter person to resist it due to some reasons.

*The urgency* of the problem of detection of someone's abuse in interpersonal communication is conditioned by numerous cases from both theory and practice of psychology, illustrating disharmonic relationships development, which entails psychological suffering (Efimova & Kovrov, 2015; Konovalov, Krasnenkov, Petrov, Rudnev, & Landyshev, 2017; Campbell, 1980;

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



Chernikov, 2001). Meanwhile, there are no standard theoretical abuse models, neither there are tools for the assessment of person's ability to detect abuse.

Of great interest and complexity are the kinds of latent, unevident abuse without clear signs of violence or manipulation, and their differentiation from those kinds of communication which do not contain abuse are of great interest and complexity. This is stipulated by a high level of subjectiveness in estimates and a large number of those factors that can influence them (Garanyan, 2015; Rasskazova et al., 2017).

Hence there arises a question of identification of the components of abuse communication which make it such, justification and empirical proof of the psychological abuse model in interpersonal communication, that would reflect their essence as "soft", i.e. not evident, and, on the other hand, evident, rude, such as direct psychological pressure or manipulation.

According to the proposed theoretical model, abuse in interpersonal communication contains three obligatory components:

1) asymmetry: absence of a mutual emotional link, consent on the common aims, agreement of opinions on the item making the essence or the result of communication at the time of interaction (*nonreciprocity*);

2) variability: availability of other ways of obtaining an actual reward, possibility to do without it and/or absence of an objective acute need in it (*optionality*) for direct or indirect satisfaction of vital requirements;

3) purpose: a reward making the aim of interpersonal interaction.

Combination of all these three normally initiates person's detection, i.e. disclosure of an abuse of this or that kind.

The following *theoretical hypotheses* have been put forward to verify the relevancy of the three-component model of abuse:

1. Personal abuse detection in interpersonal communication takes place in the simultaneous presence of all three components (asymmetry, variability, purpose).
2. Abuse detecting ability is higher in those persons who possess psychological competence of a higher level.

*The aim of the investigation* is the empirical testing of the items of the three- component model of abuse by way of comparing the empirical distribution of the tested persons' responses to the theoretical, model-provided one, and comparing responses distribution in contrast groups.

By its type, this investigation corresponds to a quasi-experiment (J. Campbell's typology) as it includes both detection of a common response to experimental treatment (availability of all the three abuse components), and response differences in the above groups, which are comparison groups to each other (Campbell, 1980; Kornilova, 2002).

The *hypotheses of the empirical investigation* are as follows:

1. All the tested respondents quite significantly demonstrate abuse detection and essentially more often in those points of the form which contain all the three components.
2. According to the form, abuse detection is significantly higher in the professional psychologists' group.

The sample of the study was comprised of 74 respondents aged 20 to 58 years, 46% of whom were professional psychologists.

Elaboration of the three component model of abuse entailed drawing up an original

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



form complying with its theory. This questionnaire was entitled Experimental Test for the Detection of Abuse.

The *subject* of the research is the abuse detection responses to the offered tasks and the level of their correspondence to the three-component model of abuse in interpersonal communication.

The research had the following *aims*:

1. To assess the validity of the three-component model of abuse according to the data concerning the level of similarity between the empirical and theoretical distribution of all the tested persons' responses.
2. To assess the differences in abuse detection shown by professional psychologists and, on the other hand, people of other professions.
3. To assess the possibility of application of the proposed form in its further modifications and elaboration of a test tool permitting to evaluate person's ability to detect abuse in interpersonal communication.

## Methods

### *Survey sample*

We surveyed respondents aged 20 and 58, whose education fluctuated between university not completed and PhD, professional psychologists among them. All the psychologists engaged in the research were trust practitioners having their own customer experience, regularly supervised, as well as regularly consulting those exposed to psychological manipulations and various abuse types. Their participation in the investigation in the capacity of tested persons is a significant contribution in the assessment of the validity of the proposed model as it enables comparison of their abuse detection ability to that of other respondents. In other words, they make the expert section of the sample as experts are supposedly able to detect abuse better than representatives of other trades.

In total, the general survey sample made 74 persons, 34 of whom were professional psychologists (the group of 'psychologists') and 40 of whom were specialists of other professions including teachers, lawyers, economists, software programmers, mathematicians, managers and leading personnel, creative professionals and graduate students of Moscow universities (the group of 'non-psychologists'). Educational levels: 8 persons (10.8 %): university not completed; 59 persons (79.7 %): university degrees, and 7 persons (9.5 %): PhDs.

The gender composition was as follows: 24 (32.4 %) males and 50 (67.6 %) females. "Psychologists" included 9 males and 25 females (26.5 % and 73.5 % correspondingly), while "non-psychologists" included 15 males and 25 females (37.5 % and 62.5 % correspondingly).

### *Response registration*

The Investigation was carried out with the aid of remote technologies, via the Internet. The form was sent to the respondents as an online message with fill-in fields: email, name, age, education, and actual profession.

Then there was the following instruction: *Here are 20 short stories about people's relations. Some were borrowed from fiction. You don't have to remember the pieces of literature since all the info you need for your answer is in the story itself. Answer, which of the stories contain abuse or manipulation of one person by another, and which don't. You will find this question in the end of each story.*

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



Below there were form tasks.

The tested persons' responses were registered online and automatically stored in a table, wherefrom they were manually transferred to a summary table, where they underwent systematization and primary treatment (responses of various categories were calculated, then split into groups, etc.).

### *Experimental Test for the Detection of Abuse*

The form drawn up to test and verify the proposed model, consisted of tasks being brief descriptions of hypothetical life situations and compiled so that they embrace the whole range of possible combinations of all the three components of communication abuse. Example: *Olga knows that Natalia's a kind person who will not refuse aid. During a break between lectures Natalia intended to go to the library, yet Olga asks Natalia to go and by a sandwich for her in a store. Is Olga abusing Natalia's kindness?* The essence of the test is in the respondents' detection whether there is or there is no abuse in the proposed examples of interpersonal interaction.

Thus, each test task included 1 to 3 components of hypothetical communication abuse: asymmetry, variability, and purpose. The questionnaire was entitled Experimental Test for the Detection of Abuse.

Besides, while constructing those hypothetical situations contained in the form, consideration was given to other factors which could distort the test result: gender, age and status in the social hierarchy. According to a number of studies, in those tasks that include deceit or manipulation components, detection is influenced by a vast range of factors (Gerasimova & Sergienko, 2004; Ekman, 2015; Ekman & O'Sullivan, 1991). Respondents typically attach the roles of manipulators or deceivers to those characters who may not be such. These phenomena are not similar and are distributed in the sample in an uneven manner. Such factors may be: age-related changes in the ability to identify deceit and abuse; differences in the idea of role interaction between males and females, people of different age and social status (Gerasimova & Sergienko, 2004; Ekman, 2015; Ekman & O'Sullivan, 1991).

That is why most tasks are constructed so that their characters are of the same gender and age, have an equal or alike status, which all brings them close to this criterion. Exception is provided by 4 tasks (no. 4, 10, 14, and 18), which were introduced in the form with the aim of possible recognition of these factors' impact on the responses: erroneous abuse detection where it was not supposed to be, and vice versa.

Apart from the tasks purposefully constructed for the form, the latter includes 4 situations borrowed from fiction (I. Il'f, E. Petrov, *The Twelve Chairs*; A. S. Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*; A. S. Pushkin, *Captain's Daughter*; I. S. Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*), and 2 more tasks with a humorous component: a made-up situation with a Russian epic hero, warrior Alyosha Popovich, and a scene out of the *Winnie-the-Pooh* cartoon film.

This was done to prevent fatigue and monotony, confusion risk, and wrong responses to the test tasks, and it also makes the form psychologically attractive for the respondents.

The final test included 12 tasks reflecting all possible combinations of the components of abuse communication. Out of this number, 10 tasks contained combinations of all the three components and presumed availability and detection by the respondents of some abuse, and 10 "false" tasks containing an incomplete set of components of abuse communication, which did not presume detection of any type of abuse.

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



Responses were graded according to four degrees: *Definitely yes!*, *Rather yes*, *Rather no* and *Definitely no!* This gradation was applied because when the form was initially elaborated, there was an intention to take into account gradation of the responses, yet later it was considered superfluous. Nevertheless, it presumably favors the verity of the results due to "legalization" of doubt, which leads to the reduction of psychological tension while responding questions and to the display of the first, right response (Rasskazova et al., 2017; Pakhomov, & Sudyina, 2013). Thus, in calculation of the results and their statistical treatment responses were viewed as positive or negative, without their gradation.

According to the existing hypothesis, abuse detection and the accompanying deductions and responses are to be manifested in just those instances where all the three components are combined, which is expressed through the description of the emotional aspect of the relations, intentions and plans, as well as the circumstances of the event, i.e. in one half of the hypothetical situations (50 %). and on the contrary, in case at least one component is not present, there should be no abuse detection and the response to the test question should be negative.

***Statistical hypotheses and treatment of data***

The key variable for this investigation is dependant variable *Dt* (derived from English *detection*), i.e. the amount of those responses to the form tasks coinciding with the theoretical ones, envisaged by the model; its upper bound is 20 points.

The independent variable of the investigation is the test task content. This may acquire two logical values: "abuse" and "no abuse". This value depends on the completeness of the set of abuse components within each task.

From out of the variables beyond the researcher's control, one should note such factors as personal convictions and worldview peculiarities of each respondent, as well as their psychological state during the test time.

The major objective of data treatment was to adequately define the following:

1. Total amounts of "right" (i.e. envisaged by the three component abuse model) responses coincide with the assumed ones or stay close to these in the whole sample; their distributions are statistically similar.

In this case the statistical hypotheses take the following form:

$H_0$: empirical distribution of the *Dt* values does not demonstrate any significant difference from the theoretical one (desired);

$H_1$: empirical and theoretical distributions of the *Dt* values demonstrate a significant difference.

2. Total amounts of points (*Dt*) and their distribution in the "psychologists" group show a significant upward difference from the analogous results in the "non-psychologists" group.

The statistical hypotheses for this task took the following form:

$H_0$: empirical distributions of the *Dt* values in the "psychologists" and "non-psychologists" groups do not demonstrate any significant difference;

$H_1$: empirical distribution of the *Dt* values in the "psychologists" group shows a significant upward difference from the "non-psychologists" group (desired);

$H_2$: empirical distribution of the *Dt* values in the "psychologists" group shows a significant downward difference from the "non-psychologists" group.

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



One secondary objective of the investigation is to study the distribution of the responses of the whole sample and the contrast groups against the test tasks. This might help reveal irregularity in the success of their solution and define which of them arouse unanimity in responses, and which resulted in the greatest dispersion.

This will further permit to study the nature of differences in abuse detection and task perception. Besides, this will provide information for future investigation of the form's validity, reliability, adjustment of its possibilities, its further improvement.

The following statistical hypotheses are tested:

$H_0$: empirical and theoretical distributions of responses in every task do not show significant difference;

$H_1$: empirical and theoretical distributions of responses in every task show significant difference.

The data were statistically treated via the the Excel (Microsoft Excel 2007) worksheets. The obtained results were tabulated and mathematically treated by way of programming statistical criteria formulae in the function entry.

Investigation of the general response distribution regarding its closeness to the normal one was carried out by two ways:

1. According to N. A. Plokhinskii's method, by way of comparing excess indexes and asymmetry to their tabulated critical values pointed by this researcher (Sidorenko, 2007).

2. According to E. I. Pustyl'nik's method, by way of calculating critical excel values and asymmetry by his formulae and comparing these values to the empirical ones (Sidorenko, 2007).

Further, while comparing the empirical distribution to the theoretical one, conditioned by the available three component abuse model, the $\chi^2$ Pearson criterion was applied in the responses of the whole sample and comparison groups.

To reveal significant differences between the results shown by the contrast groups and search for the critical point of distribution separating these values, applied was Kolmogorov-Smirnov's $\lambda$ criterion, while to assess the shift of these values separated by this point, applied was Fisher's $\varphi^*$ criterion.

Apart from the respondents' results and their response distribution, studied also were the qualities and characteristics of the question tasks making the form: calculated was the "error" rate in absolute and percentage terms for each task, as well as calculated was Pearson's $\chi^2$ criterion for the comparison of the empirical distribution of "right" responses to the form tasks with the theoretical ones. This permitted to define later which responses caused the greatest scatter of responses and single out those which are most heavily influenced by personal factors beyond the researcher's control: worldview, personal attitudes, experience, etc.

## Results

All the results were calculated at this stage of investigation in raw points.

It should be noted that conversion of raw points into standardized ones is deemed necessary for these methods, yet at this stage it is not possible due to the small size of the sample (Sidorenko, 2007).

First analyzed were the parameters of distribution of the total amount of "right" responses (the

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



*Dt* variable) of the whole sample, and then a general distribution graph was constructed (Fig. 1) and descriptive statistics calculated: $\overline{M}$ = 17.18; *Me* = 17; *Mo* = 17; $SD^2$ = 2.53; *SD* = 1.59; *A* = –0.44; *E* = –0.03.

Investigation of responses distribution regarding its closeness to normal distribution gave the following results:

1. In accordance with N. A. Plokhinskii's method, the ratio of the absolute values of asymmetry and excess to the non-sampling error should not be less than 3 (Sidorenko, 2007).

$$t_A = \frac{|A|}{m_A} = 1.56 \leq 3 \text{ and } t_E = \frac{|E|}{m_E} = 0.05 \leq 3.$$

2. In accordance with E. I. Pustyl'nik's method, empirical values of asymmetry and excess (in their absolute terms) should be less than calculable critical values (Sidorenko, 2007).

$$|A_{emp}| = 0.44 \leq A_{cr} = 0.83 \text{ and } |E_{emp}| = 0.03 \leq E_{cr} = 2.58.$$

As is clear from the above results, distribution of "right" responses in the whole sample does not show significant difference from the normal one (Sidorenko, 2007).

The next stage of data treatment was Pearson's $\chi^2$ criterion calculation regarding coincidence of the empirical distribution of the band score (*Dt*) obtained by the respondents with theoretical distribution.

This means that correspondence of the responses to the hypotheses set forth can only be proved on condition that the value of Pearson's $\chi^2$ criterion is insignificant. In other words, theoretical value of the amounts of points is to be absolutely equal for all the tested persons making 20 points, which in this case constitutes theoretical (ideal) distribution. Absence of significant difference between empirical and theoretical distributions would mean correctness of the proposed three component model, which was used to draw up the tasks.

Calculation of the values for Person's $\chi^2$ criterion showed the following results:

- $\chi^2$ = 38.75 ($p \geq 0.05$) for the whole sample (74 persons);
- $\chi^2$ = 10.6 ($p \geq 0.05$) for the "psychologists" (34 persons);
- $\chi^2$ = 28.15 ($p \geq 0.05$) for the "non-psychologists" (40 persons).

Such results make clear that the empirical distribution of the *Dt* values representing cumulative ability to detect abuse in interpersonal communication, does not significantly differ from the theoretical distribution.

As described above, to study differences in abuse detection abilities shown by professional psychologists and people of other trades, one had to divide the total sample into corresponding groups of "psychologists" and "non-psychologists". Primary orientation in the differences required their distributions to be separated and reflected in a particular graph (Fig. 2).

Apart from this, descriptive statistics for each contrast group have also been calculated as follows: for the "psychologists" $\overline{M}$ = 17.82; *Me* = 18; *Mo* = 18; $SD^2$ = 1.54; *SD* = 1.24; *A* = –0.15; *E* = –0.36; for the "non-psychologists" $\overline{M}$ = 16.62; *Me* = 17; *Mo* = 17; $SD^2$ = 2.75; *SD* = 1.66; *A* = –0.25; *E* = –0.33.

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



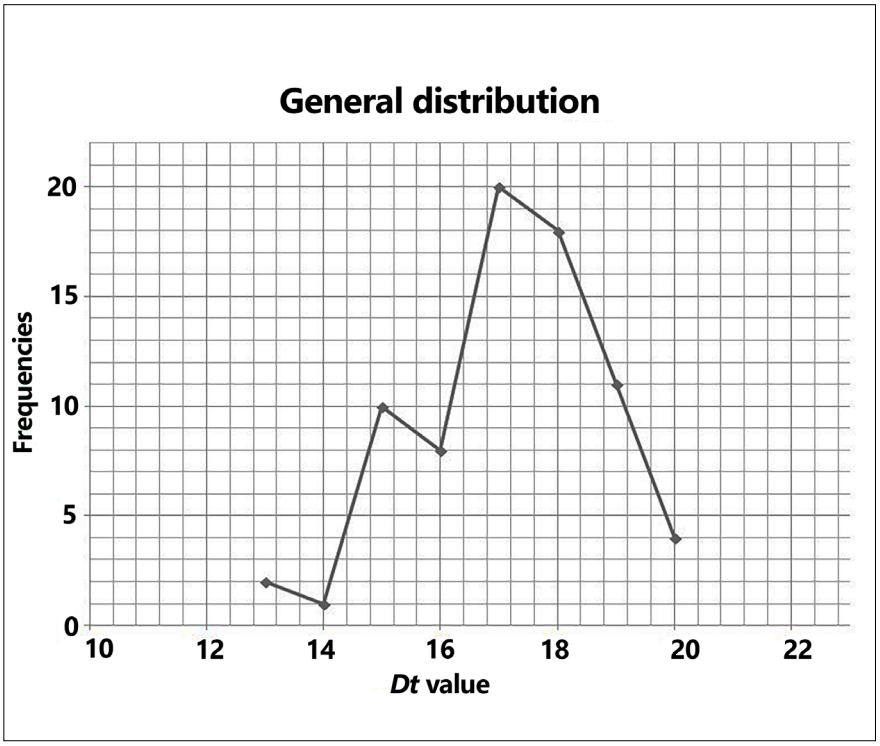


*Figure 1*. General distribution graph

Below shown are the results of investigation of distributions in the comparison groups regarding their closeness to the normal value:

For the "psychologists":

1. $t_A = \frac{|A|}{m_A} = 0.35 \leq 3$ and $t_E = \frac{|E|}{m_E} = 0.43 \leq 3$ (ac. to N. A. Plokhinskii).

2. $|A_{emp}| = 0.15 \leq A_{cr} = 1.17$ and $|E_{emp}| = 0.36 \leq E_{cr} = 3.48$ (ac. to E. I. Pustyl'nik).

For the "non-psychologists":

1. $t_A = \frac{|A|}{m_A} = 0.64 \leq 3$ and $t_E = \frac{|E|}{m_E} = 0.43 \leq 3$ (ac. to N. A. Plokhinskii).

2. $|A_{emp}| = 0.25 \leq A_{cr} = 1.09$ and $|E_{emp}| = 0.33 \leq E_{cr} = 3.22$ (ac. to E. I. Pustyl'nik).

Distributions of responses in both comparison groups do not show significant difference from the normal one.

The graph (Fig. 2) demonstrates that most results of the "psychologists" group are concentrated

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



in its right section, in the high value zone, while distribution of the results of the "non-psychologists" is shifted somewhat to the left and has a greater range of values.

To achieve maximum accuracy in calculating the significance of these differences, applied was Fisher's φ* criterion along with Kolmogorov-Smirnov's λ criterion.

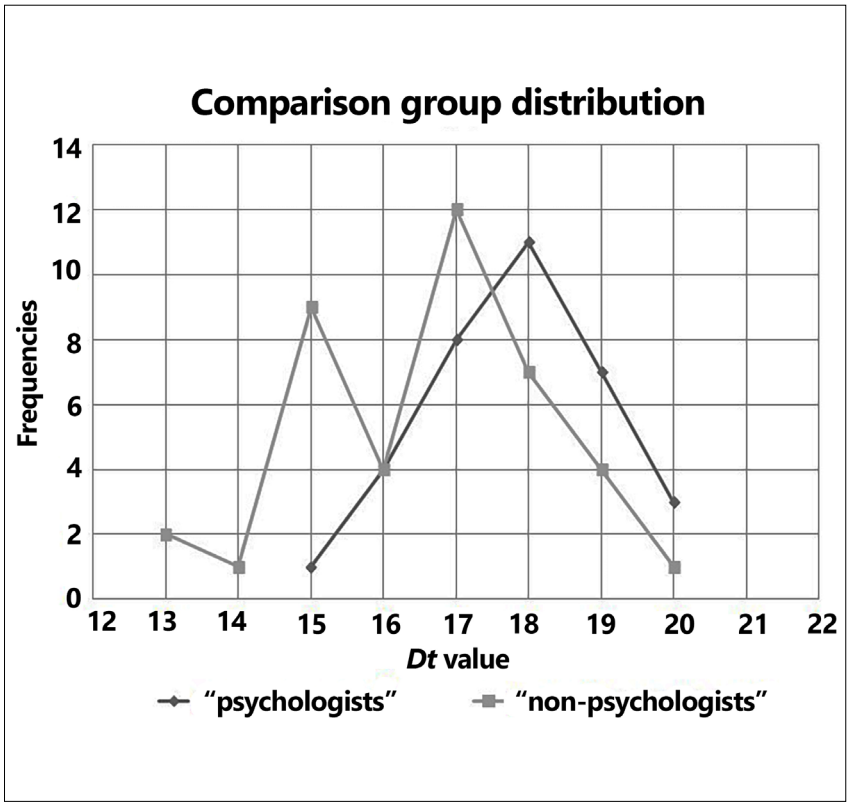


*Figure 2. Distribution of responses in the groups of 'psychologists' and 'non-psychologists'*

This combination of statistical criteria enables to most accurately define the differences in the comparison groups' results: Kolmogorov-Smirnov's λ criterion permits to define the key value, the critical point of the distribution which separates respondents into those who "detect the effect" and those who "do not detect the effect"; in its turn, Fisher's φ* criterion is applied to calculate the degree and significance of the contrast groups relative to this critical point (Sidorenko, 2007).

As Kolmogorov-Smirnov's λ criterion was calculated, defined was the critical value separating the results of the contrast groups in the values achieved:

$Dt = 17$; $\lambda = 1.362$ ($p \leq 0.05$).

Thus, the achievement of the described "effect", i.e. the key criterion for the differences between the results of the contrast groups, is this value's exceedance.

Calculation of Fisher's φ* criterion regarding this value demonstrated the following significant result:

$\varphi^* = 2.786551$ ($p \leq 0.01$).

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



Additionally studied was general distribution of responses to each task of the form. The table below shows distribution of responses to each task (Tab. 1).

Table 1
*Distribution of right and wrong responses to each task*

| No. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | **9** | 10 | **11** | 12 | 13 | **14** | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Right" | 72 | 68 | 60 | 57 | 63 | 66 | 67 | 66 | **50** | 64 | **39** | 64 | 68 | **49** | 69 | 71 | 67 | 66 | 71 | 74 |
| "Wrong" | 2 | 6 | 14 | 17 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 8 | **24** | 10 | **35** | 10 | 6 | **25** | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 0 |

It is obvious that maximum number of discrepancies with the theoretical values is shown in tasks no. 9, 11, and 14 (bold type in Table 1), which is slightly different from what was assumed before.

To study the differences between the empirical and theoretical (ideal) distributions of responses to each task, applied was Pearson's $\chi 2$ criterion, which showed the following values:

- $\chi^2 = 49.2$ ($p \leq 0.01$) for the whole sample;
- $\chi^2 = 14.7$ ($p \geq 0.05$) for the "psychologists";
- $\chi^2 = 38.35$ ($p \leq 0.01$) for the "non-psychologists".

The obtained result reflects the difference between the empirical distribution of the total number of the accumulated right responses and, on the other hand, the theoretical one for the whole sample. Table 1 clearly shows that the response scatter regarding some questions is rather high.

Nevertheless meaningful is the fact that after the sample was divided into two groups according to the respondents' trade, it turned out that incase of the "psychologists" the difference between the empirical distribution of responses to each task and the theoretical one was unexposed, contrary to the "non-psychologists", in whose case the shown differences are significant as before.

Additional calculation demonstrated that in case of exclusion from distribution of the results referring to tasks no. 9, 11, and 14 (the greatest response scatter), the value of criterion $\chi^2 = 16.42$ ($p \geq 0.05$) for the whole sample.

Most probably a result of the kind reflects the already shown differences in the ability to detect abuse by those who have been professionally trained in psychology.

## Discussion

The objective of this paper was to formulate and substantiate the three- component model of abuse which enables to both detect hidden or latent types of abuse and analyze the availability of definite communication components (asymmetry, variability, and aim) by the signs of subjective reactions characteristic for abuse. An important factor highlighted in the research is closeness of the empirical distribution of the responses of the whole sample and contrast group

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



to the normal one. This is an encouraging result permitting to characterize the sample as close to a representative one, hence it is possible to assert natural and non-artifact nature of the results obtained through statistical criteria.

Empirical verification of the hypothesis of a three-component structure in communication abuse has shown the following: neither the sample, nor any contrast group demonstrates significant differences between the empirical distribution of the responses and the theoretical one. At this stage of research admitted is $H_0$: the empirical distribution of the *Dt* values does not significantly differ from the theoretical (desired) one. Thus, evident is the commonness of responses to hypothetical situations of interpersonal interaction with abuse components in those cases where the effect of gender, age, intergenerational, other stereotypes and personal factors is minimized. This means that classifications and divisions of the whole amount of interpersonal communication constituents into three components, or criteria describing abuse communication (asymmetry, variability and aim), are correct.

Therefore, we may assert that abuse detection in interpersonal communication requires combination of all the three above mentioned components. Consequently, the hypothesis of the three-component structure of abuse in interpersonal communication also seems to be valid.

Nevertheless, in spite of the commonness demonstrated by the responses for the whole sample, revealed have been significant differences in distributions of responses in the groups of "psychologists" and "non-psychologists" towards a statistically significant raise of the overall score in the former group. Accepted is statistic hypothesis $H_1$: the empirical distribution of the *Dt* values in the "psychologists" group significantly differs from the "non-psychologists" towards greater values (desired). Thus, it is evident that abuse detection in the drawn up form is significantly higher with professional psychologists than with the people of other professions.

All the declared results permit to abandon, at this stage, response qualifications "right" and "wrong" in inverted commas since the initial, first theoretical only, ideas of their fidelity or erroneousness find endorsement. Besides, another important result is the demonstration of the influence produced by personal factors on abuse perception and detection, shown by the example of those tasks where these factors were included. In fact this demonstration illustrates the "noise" in abuse detection stipulated by the impact of individual peculiarities. According to the results of statistical calculation (for the whole sample) accepted is hypothesis $H_1$: empirical and theoretical distributions of responses to each task are significantly different. It should be noted that this result of the whole sample is not common for the contrast groups: while the differences are retained for the "non-psychologists", the other group did not reveal any differences. This means that in regard of the "psychologists", accepted is hypothesis $H_0$: empirical and theoretical distributions of responses to each task do not significantly differ. This most probably testifies that those questions which arouse most contradictions in responses, did not cause such difficulties with the "psychologists". In this case one may assume that these questions serve, at this stage, as key markers in diagnosing the ability to detect abuse in the form.

Such an assumption is confirmed by the calculations carried out after the most "conflictive" questions (no. 9, 11, and 14) have been excluded from the distribution. Then no statistic differences can be found in the distribution of responses in the whole sample. This enables to state that the above tasks are most exposed to personal factors distorting the observation result and fail to reflect the common denominators in abuse detection, unlike all the rest tasks.

**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



***Conclusion***

The proposed three-component model of abuse appears to be valid for studying the nature of abuse and manipulation, improving and enriching the ways of coping with it, developing self-consciousness and possibly changing individual reactions in interpersonal contacts. Evidently being a constituent of social and emotional intelligence, abuse detection ability may be a trend in their investigation and development as it implicates close connection with such aspect of the latter as empathy, contextual understanding in communication, realization of one's own emotional signals, etc. (Chernikov, 2001; Arshanskaya (Sheshukova), 2018; Lyusin, 2004; Ushakov, 2004).

Proceeding from the necessarianism principle innate in the three-component model of abuse, one can disclose those unconscious components of interaction which lead to subjectively unpleasant emotions in disharmonic communication (Kharlamenkova, 2013).

At the same time the revealed differences in responses may be of certain use for studying both the general and the individual (personal) in abuse detection, including erroneous detection as well, and in studying the patterns of social interaction between the person and the nature of public morality.

All the above related aspects can be applied to enhance the psychological medium inside man, around him, and in the society as a whole. Here is what Erich Fromm writes about it: "What kind of society corresponds to this goal of mental sanity and what is the desired structure of sane society? First of all, the society where none is a stepping stone to somebody's goal, but where everyone is always and solely a goal all by himself; the society where none is used, neither uses himself for the purposes which do not unleash powers of man; where man is the center and where his economic and political activities comply with the aim of his own development" (Fromm, 2015, p. 302).

Most probably the Experimental Test for the Detection of Abuse, provided it is properly revised and improved, its properties studied, and links with other methods of mental diagnosis established, can become a tool in detecting or studying all the above described aspects.

***Final provisions***

1. Empirically obtained responses to the form tasks coincide with the theoretical ones, the latter based on the principles of the three-component model of abuse in interpersonal communication. As assumed before, they depend on the availability (in the task) of the complete set of communication components defined in the theoretical model as abuse components. Thus, the theoretical provisions of the three-component model of abuse in interpersonal communication seem valid.

2. The level of abuse detection in professional psychologists' test tasks is higher against the people of other trades. This proves the idea that psychological competence, individual psychological work and other ways of psychological culture improvement favor the abilities to detect abuse, as well as improve social competences in general.

3. Distribution of the tested persons' responses to the test tasks is not even. There is a need for further studies of those factors influencing such responses: peculiarities of the emotional and will power spheres, ideas of ethics and morals, beliefs, etc.

The tasks causing the greatest response scatter might perhaps be used as more complicated markers in a study of individual differences in abuse detection; they may need correction and improvement in the further adjustment of the form.

Further modification and validation of the test material based on the shown three-component model of abuse seem possible in case of a larger sample, greater number of variations in test tasks, parallel application of other diagnostic and research methods.

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**Russian Psychological Journal**, 2019, Vol. 16, No. 3, 87–101. **doi**: 10.21702/rpj.2019.3.7



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