The Relationship between the Image of the Future and the Assessment of the Living Environment in Migrants (On the Example of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky)

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Abstract

The article presents the results of a scientific psychological study on the relationship between the image of the future and the assessment of the living environment in migrants. Scientific and theoretical approaches to the study of the time perspective and the image of the future and the socio-psychological characteristics of migrants' adaptation to new living conditions are examined. The article presents the results of an empirical study based on comparing the groups of migrants living Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky; the groups are derived through clustering the results of M. Lalli's "Urban Identity Scale" and differ in the subjective attitude towards the place of residence. It is discovered that migrants with a more positive attitude towards the living environment are characterized by a more positive image of the future. It is established that in both groups of migrants, the attitude towards the time perspective changes in parallel with the change in certain aspects of identification with the city while identification with the city changes in parallel with the elements of the attitude towards the time perspective. A number of patterns are identified in the relationship between the level of identification with the city and the characteristics of time perspective in general and the image of the future in particular which differ across the groups of migrants with the negative and more positive assessment of the living environment.

Keywords: Migrants, Image of the Future, Subjective Assessment of the Place of Residence.

1. Introduction

1.1 Study Relevance and Methodology

Since the second half of the 20th century, migration processes have reached a truly global scale covering all continents of the planet, social strata, and social groups, various spheres of public life. Migration has become one of the main factors of social transformation and development in all regions

of the world. Migration inevitably entails cultural and ethnic diversification (expansion) of the population in individual countries and the blurring of traditional boundaries. Despite that the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky can be characterized as a place of residence with extreme natural and climatic conditions, a constant inflow of labor migrants from countries like Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Armenia is observed in its territory. Scientific studies on the subjective assessment of the living environment and future planning in migrants in new living conditions are of great importance for solving a range of applied problems since their results allow for optimizing migrants' adaptation to the new place of residence.

The goal of the study is to explore the relationship between the image of the future and the assessment of the living environment in migrants (Kyrgyz and Kurds) living in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

The object of the study is the image of the future of migrants and **the subject of the study** is the relationship between the image of the future and the assessment of the living environment in migrants – Kyrgyz and Kurds living in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

The hypothesis of the study is the assumption that different levels of migrants' assessment of the living environment correspond to different specifics in the image of the future and the overall time perspective.

1.2. Theoretical background

Theoretical analysis of scientific research demonstrates that the concept of "the image of the future" is closely tied by researchers with the concept of "the time perspective of a person". L.K. Frank describes time perspective through the interrelation of the past, present, and future in the consciousness and behavior of a person (1939) while K. Lewin (2015) suggests that time perspective includes the psychological past and the psychological future at the level of reality and various levels of the irreal. J. Nuttin (2004) indicates that time perspective is composed of objects or events existing at the representational (cognitive) level of behavioral functioning and the objects of cognitive representation are not tied to the present moment in which the act of representation is carried out. F. Zimbardo and J. Boyd define the time perspective as follows: "It is often an unconscious attitude of a person towards time and a process by which a long stream of existence is united into temporal categories which helps to order our life, structure it, and give it meaning" (2010, 21).

According to the causal and goal conception of E.I. Golovakha and A.A. Kronik (2008), a unit of psychological time is the cross-eventual connection of the "cause – effect" or "end - means" types; a unit of psychological future is the potential connection of events of the chronological future.

The topic of the emotional component of a person's attitude towards their time is covered by many authors. The time perspective phenomenon is examined as situationally determined on the one hand and as a relatively stable process and a personality trait on the other (Abulkhanova, Berezina, 2001, Zimbardo, Boyd, 2010, Kovalev, 1995, Nuttin, 2004).

The features of the time perspective in general and the image of the future in particular are shaped by the factors of culture, education, religion, belonging to a social stratum, etc. (Baraboshina, 2012, Tolstykh, 2010). In this study, we aimed to understand how such an important life event as migration to a new place of residence and the subjective assessment of this place are related to a person's image of the future.

The problem of studying the quality of life and the subjective assessment of the living environment is currently one of the most vital interdisciplinary problems of modern science within the context of studying the interaction and mutual influence of socio-psychological, economic, environmental, and other phenomena in the process of effective human life (Astratova, 2012, Zarakovskii, Kazakova, 2007, Lebedeva, 2012, Iaremchuk, 2013).

There are three main understandings of the quality of life: 1) quality of life as an *objective characteristic* determining the material conditions and the means of supporting human life; 2) quality of life as a *subjective characteristic* involving a person's attitude towards the living conditions and various material and cultural benefits which refers more to the "subjective well-being" and "subjective satisfaction"; 3) quality of life as a *combination of objective and subjective characteristics* covering the whole variety of perspectives, conditions, and attitudes within the "person – life – means and conditions of life" system (Kachestvo zhizni: kratkii slovar, 2009).

The third way of understanding appears the most rational as it unites a set of diverse factors determining the quality of life. Researchers adhering to the view of the quality of life as a result of the influence of both objective and subjective factors often examine these factors in the context of the "person-environment" ("person-living conditions", "person-living environment", etc.) system. This emphasizes the need to study the quality of life from the point of the subject-environmental approach which implies viewing a person and the world as interacting and interpenetrating consistent systems (Shiriaeva, 2008).

O.S. Shiriaeva (2008) views equilibrium in the "subject-environment" system as a condition for achieving psychological well-being and highlights that this system, same as any other complex system, strives for self-organization and sustainability: in the case of a deficit in the environment and its deprivating effect on the personality, a person will need additional internal resources specific in terms of content, the degree of manifestation, and the field of application to harmonize the "subject-environment" system.

The integration of the concepts of time (the image of the future) and space (the subjective assessment of the living environment) in the problem field of this study draws our attention to the concept of chronotope. This term was first used in the works of A.A. Ukhtomskii (2002). I.O. Loginova (2009) describes the chronotope as an ordered systemic intersection of time and space in the canvas of life associated with the property of self-organization of systems in which the psyche serves as a "product of a new reality" providing a continuous increase in systemic organization complexity.

One of the critical aspects of the chronotope is its transcultural nature (Fominykh, 2017). This implies the inextricable bond between cultural changes and the internal psychological component of the personality (Loginova, 2008). Immigrants who leave their sociocultural field and enter a new living environment with its own climatic, geographical, socio-economic, and cultural characteristics construct the image of their future based both on the stable values and meanings already present in the structure of their personality and their perception of the resources of the new living environment (Mikliaeva, Rumiantseva, 2008, Iaremchuk, 2013).

Within the "person-environment" relationships, many researchers examine the so-called phenomenon of territoriality – a person's recognition of a certain place or territory as "their own". Identification with the living environment entails changes in personality constructs, thus, the urban identity transforms the chronotope of a migrant. Researchers highlight the personal nature of identification with a place (Hunter, 1987) and additionally introduce the concept of "topological identity" referring to the emotional connection with the place of residence and people living nearby (Bogomaz S.A., Litvina S.A. et. al., 2015).

2. Methods

To meet the goal of the study, at its different stages, we deployed a **set of methods** including the theoretical analysis of scientific sources on the studied problem, as well as empirical research methods.

The methods used to assess **the image of the future** include Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory as adapted by E.T. Sokolova, O.V. Mitina, and A. Syrtsova, Cottle's Graphic Test (Cottle's Circles Test), the Life-Meaning Orientation Scale (LSS) as adapted by D.A. Leontiev; an associative experiment with the stimulus "future".

To evaluate **the assessment of the environment**, we deployed the "Urban Identity Scale" by M. Lalli, the method of Subjective Hierarchy of Basic Values (SHBV) by S.A. Bogomaz, and the method of Subjective Assessment of the Realizability of Basic Values (SARBV) by S.A. Bogomaz.

The deployed **data analysis methods** included quantitative methods (cluster analysis, correlation analysis, statistical comparison of samples via Student's t-test and Fisher's angular transformation test), as well as qualitative analysis of data and its interpretation.

The empirical basis of the study. The study was conducted in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (the Russian Federation), the sample included 52 respondents – migrant Kyrgyz and Kurds who have lived in Kamchatka for 1-10 years, men and women aged from 25 to 50 years old.

3. Results

3.1. Identification of the studied groups

At the first stage of the study, we conducted a cluster analysis of the results on the entire sample using all scales of M. Lalli's "Urban Identity Inventory". As a result, we obtained two clusters, the first one including 32 respondents (6 Kyrgyz composing 23.1% of the overall number of the surveyed Kyrgyz migrants and 26 Kurds, the entire available sample of Kurds) and the second one comprising 20 Kyrgyz respondents, 76.9% of this national group within the sample. The average values by the scales of M. Lalli's method and the results of their statistical comparison using the Student's t-test are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 - Average values by the scales of M. Lalli's method in both clusters and the results of their statistical comparison through Student's t-test

Scale	Average value in cluster 1	Average value in cluster 2	Student's t-test value, significance level
Evaluation	4.1	3.0	6.8***
Attachment	4.0	3.3	4.3***
Continuity	3.6	2.5	7.3***
Familiarity	4.1	2.4	9.9***
Commitment	3.9	2.2	8.7***

Hereinafter, the symbols of the level of statistical significance are used: *** – p ≤ 0.001, ** – p ≤ 0.01, * – p ≤ 0.05

As can be observed from Table 1, the values in the first cluster are significantly higher than in the second cluster across all scales of the method. Based on this, we identified two study groups: group 1 – migrant respondents with a more positive attitude towards the place of residence and group 2 – migrant respondents with a more negative attitude towards the place of residence.

No significant differences were found between the groups by the scales of the SHBV and SARBV methods which can be explained by the respondents' subjective assessment of the realizability of some basic values not being linked to the living environment.

3.2. Comparison of the image of the future in the studied groups

Further on, we conducted a comparative analysis of the overall time perspective and the image of the future in the groups of respondents with a positive and negative attitude to the living environment, the results are presented in Tables 2-4.

Table 2 - Average values by the LSS method in groups 1 and 2 and the results of their comparison through Student's t-test

Scale	Average value in group 1 (positive assessment of the environment)	Average value in group 2 (negative assessment of the environment)	Student's t-test value
General index	93.5	105.3	2.4*
Goals	27.9	34.3	2.8**
Process	27.7	31.5	2.2*
Result	22.3	26.1	2.4*
Locus of control – I	19.5	21.5	1.5
Locus of control – life	27.8	29.8	1.1

Table 2 shows that all parameters of meaningfulness are higher in group 2 – correlation analysis demonstrated inverse relationships of indicators of meaningfulness and subjective assessment of the living environment with the negative assessment of the living environment (the scales of M. Lalli's method, Table 3).

Table 3 - The results of correlation analysis of the relationship between the scales of the LSS and the "Urban Identity Scale" across the entire sample

Scales of the LSS/M. Lalli's method	Evaluation	Attachment	Continuity	Familiarity	Commitment
General index	-0.25	-0.21	-0.21	-0.12	**-0.29***
Goals	**-0.29***	-0.25	**-0.33***	-0.26	**-0.39****
Process	-0.20	-0.11	-0.16	-0.08	-0.20
Result	**-0.32***	-0.21	-0.22	-0.11	-0.25
Locus of control – I	-0.12	-0.26	-0.20	-0.19	-0.24
Locus of control – life	-0.16	-0.03	-0.03	0.006	-0.03

The discovered patterns are contrary to what was expected, however, their association with the national composition of groups 1 and 2 may indicate that, in this case, the attitude to the environment is secondary while the determining factors include national mentality, the level of education, and the specifics of professional activity (most respondents of the Kyrgyz nationality have secondary education and are engaged in manual labor while the majority of the respondents of the Kurdish nationality have higher education and are engaged in intellectual work).

Table 4 - Average values by the Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory scales in groups 1 and 2 and the results of their comparison using Student's t-test

Scale	Average value in group 1 (positive assessment of the environment)	Average value in group 2 (negative assessment of the environment)	Student's t-test value
Past-Negative	3.1	3.0	0.3
Present-Hedonist	3.	3.3	0.1
Future	3.8	3.5	2.2*
Past-Positive	3.7	3.6	-0.2
Present-Fatalist	3.0	3.0	0.03

As can be seen from Table 4, the results of group 1 on the "Future" are significantly higher which shows the specifics of the image of the future among migrants with different subjective assessments of the environment.

The analysis of the results of **Cottle's Graphic Test** demonstrated that all subjects drew the circles of the past, present, and future separately, not touching and not overlapping which indicates that migrants perceive the time zones as scattered, practically unrelated to each other. This feature can be assumed to be characteristic of all migrants and emerging due to the fact that migration leads to drastic

changes in people's activity dividing their lives into "before" and "after" migration as a turning point which results in the disintegration of the time perspective.

According to Cottle's conception, the degree of importance of the time zones is evaluated based on the size of the circles. Our focus was on the zone of the future: we calculated the number of respondents who drew the "Future" circle larger than the "Past" and "Present" circles and carried out a statistical comparison of the samples using Fisher's angular transformation test. No significant differences in the degree of subjective importance of the future were found between the groups.

Following the results of the **associative experiment**, associations appearing in both groups, as well as the most informative associations were selected for further analysis. Migrants with a negative attitude towards the living environment more often associate their future with traditional values. This manifests in more frequent mentions of such associations as "home", "family", "children", "work", "rest", "love", "friendship", "happiness", and the corresponding adjectives ("happy", etc.) and verbs ("to love", "to befriend", "to earn money", etc.).

Migrants with a more positive attitude towards the living environment more often associate their future with the values of achievement and development. This is demonstrated by a greater frequency of mentions of such associations as "goal", "perspective", "developing", "reliable", "to achieve", and "to seek". It is worth noting that the associations of respondents from group 1 are more activity-focused compared to the associations of migrants with a negative attitude towards the environment which indicates a more active life position of migrants with a positive attitude towards their place of residence.

We believe that the indicated features of the studied groups not only characterize migrants' image of the future but also reveal the specifics of the respondents as the subjects of life activity and their adaptation potential. The group of migrants assessing the living environment negatively demonstrates an attachment to the traditional values as their "roots" and a more passive life position which complicates their socio-psychological adaptation to a new place of residence after migration. On the contrary, the group of migrants with a positive assessment of the environment is characterized by a more active life position and striving for achievements and development which contributes to their adaptation to the new living environment.

3.3. Identification of the relationship between the image of the future and the subjective assessment of the living environment

At the third stage of the empirical study, we carried out a correlation analysis of indicators characterizing the image of the future (the scales of the Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory and D.A. Leontiev's "LSS" method) and the variables characterizing the assessment of the living environment (the scales of the Subjective Hierarchy of Basic Values, the Subjective Assessment of the Realizability of Basic Values, and the Urban Identity Scale) in the groups of respondents with a positive and negative attitude towards the living environment (Tables 5-6).

Table 5 - Relationships between the scales of the LSS and the "Urban Identity Scale" in group 1

Scales	Evaluation	Attachment	Continuity	Familiarity	Commitment
General index	**0.52***	0.30	0.08	**0.46***	-0.06
Goals	0.41	0.12	-0.10	0.25	-0.19
Process	**0.60****	0.21	-0.02	0.41	0.12
Result	0.38	0.42	0.02	**0.51***	0.11
Locus of control – I	**0.48***	-0.12	0.01	0.09	-0.19
Locus of control – life	**0.50***	**0.46***	0.16	**0.61****	0.22

It was discovered that in group 1, the increase in the level of perception of closeness (Familiarity), emotional connection to the city (Attachment), and the assessment of the value of the city (Evaluation) is associated with a rise in the overall meaningfulness of life, improvement in the value and meaning attitude towards one's past and present, and an increase in the level of internality of the subject of life activity. A high level of life meaningfulness is linked to increased identification with the city. The indicated relationships are mediated by migrants' subjective satisfaction with their life in the city accompanied by the positive attitude to the living environment.

Table 6 - Relationships between the scales of the LSS and the "Urban Identity Scale" in group 2

Scales	Evaluation	Attachment	Continuity	Familiarity	Commitment
General index	**-0.36***	-0.29	0.07	0.15	-0.01
Goals	**-0.43***	-0.25	0.14	0.06	0.00
Process	-0.31	-0.05	0.27	0.22	0.04
Result	**-0.37***	-0.31	0.04	0.15	-0.06
Locus of control – I	-0.25	-0.22	-0.10	-0.08	0.02
Locus of control – life	-0.30	-0.13	0.10	0.07	0.09

It is determined that the higher are the level of meaningfulness of the lives of migrants with a negative attitude to the living environment and the level of their value and meaning attitude to their

future and past, the lower is their assessment of the external value of the city (Evaluation). The discovered patterns are explained by the breadth of the outlook and the level of aspirations of migrants with a high level of meaningfulness of life as part of group 2.

The results of correlation analysis between the scales of LSS and the Subjective Hierarchy of Basic Values and the Subjective Assessment of the Realizability of Basic Values methods in the two groups are as follows.

In the group with a positive assessment of the environment, statistically significant inverted relationships were revealed between the general index of the Subjective Hierarchy of Basic Values (SHBV) by S.A. Bogomaz and the "Meaningfulness of life" ($r = -0.45$; $p < 0.05$) and "Goals" ($r = -0.56$; $p < 0.01$) scales of the "LSS" method. Thus, in group 1, high indicators of the Subjective Hierarchy of Basic Values correspond to low meaningfulness of life and value and meaning attitude towards the future, and vice-versa. The higher is the subjective importance of different values in migrants with a positive attitude towards the living environment, the lower are their levels of life meaningfulness and the value and meaning attitude towards the future. This result can be explained through the fact that in the presence of an excessive number of various subjectively significant values, migrants experience a sort of multitasking and feel the limitedness of their abilities to reach each of the possible goals. It can be assumed that a certain role in the increase of SHBV indicators is played by perfectionism.

Correlation analysis in group 2 revealed statistically significant direct links between the general index of S.A. Bogomaz's SARBV method and the values of the "Goals" ($r=0,35$; $p<0,05$) and "Result" ($r=0,38$; $p<0,05$) scales of the "LSS" method. This can possibly be explained by migrants' assessment of the realization of their basic values influencing their attitude towards the past and the present. If the basic values are highly realized, migrants experience dissatisfaction with their past and optimism regarding the future. On the contrary, if the basic values are not realized or realized poorly, migrants experience dissatisfaction and disappointment regarding their past and pessimism towards the future.

In group 1, numerous inverted correlations were found between the scales of M. Lalli's method reflecting different aspects of identification with the city and the scales of the Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory indicating the respondents' attitude towards the time perspective. Since this group included exclusively migrants with a positive attitude towards the living environment, the identified patterns signify that the negative attitude towards the time perspective is characteristic of migrants with the highest levels of identification with the city. It is possible that the revealed patterns

are determined by the low self-esteem of migrants with extremely high identification with the city. They view their past and present in a negative light and do not hope for the future as they consider themselves unable to achieve any results. However, they assess their living environment exceptionally positively considering it great luck to settle in such a beautiful city.

Correlation analysis in group 2 did not reveal any statistically significant correlations between the scales of the Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory and the "Urban Identity Scale" methods. This result can possibly be explained by the fact that migrants with a negative attitude towards the place of residence do not view the living environment as an important factor in evaluating various fragments of the time perspective – their past, present, and future.

Correlation analysis in group 1 also did not show any significant correlations between the scales of the Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory and the indexes of the SHBV and SARBV methods. A statistically significant direct link was found in group 2 between the "Present-Hedonist" scale of the Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory and the index of the Subjective Hierarchy of Basic Values method ($r = 0.43$; $p < 0.05$). The identified relationship demonstrates that migrants highly focused on receiving pleasure in the present are characterized by high subjective importance of various values which can be explained by the fact that in the presence of a wide spectrum of various subjectively important values, the number and intensity of needs and desires to realize these values rise. In turn, the intensity of desires influences the level of the desire to get the result immediately, in the present.

The obtained results support the initial hypothesis on the interconnection of the image of the future and the assessment of the living environment in migrants living in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

4. Conclusion

The analysis of the relationship between the image of the future and the assessment of the living environment in Kyrgyz and Kurd migrants living in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky conducted in this study allows us to draw the following conclusions:

1) Migrants with a more positive attitude towards the living environment are characterized by a more optimistic image of the future compared to migrants with a negative attitude towards the place of residence.

2) In migrants with a negative attitude towards the living environment, the image of the future is more associated with traditional values and a passive life position while in the group of migrants

with a positive attitude towards the place of residence, it is linked to the values of achievement and development and a more active life position.

3) In migrants with a negative attitude towards the place of residence, the value and meaning attitude towards the future improves along with the increase in the subjective assessment of the realizability of their basic values and the decrease in the assessment of the external value of the city.

4) In migrants with a more positive attitude towards the place of residence, цthe value and meaning attitude towards the future improves along with the decline in the subjective importance of various values; a negative attitude towards the future is typical of migrants with extremely high identification with the city.

The discovered patterns support the initial hypothesis of the study suggesting that the different levels of migrants' assessment of their living environment correspond to different features of the time perspective in general and the image of the future in particular. The obtained results demonstrate the need to study the influence of the new living environment on the adaptation of migrants and the transformation of their chronotope, specifically the change in the image of the future in accordance with the specifics and resources of the new living environment.

5. Acknowledgment

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