

**Pashkova Yana Andreevna**

Lecturer of the Department of  
General and Social Psychology

Voronezh State University

Russia, Voronezh

**Solovieva Irina Yurevna**

Associate Professor of the Department of

English for Humanities

Voronezh State University

Russia, Voronezh

## **THE PROBLEM OF FAMILY SUBJECTIVENESS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**Abstract:** the article deals with the problem of family subjectiveness in the social psychology. Contemporary studies of family subjectiveness are discussed. The family subjectiveness is analyzed.

**Keywords:** subject, subjectiveness, family subjectiveness.

**Пашкова Яна Андреевна**

преподаватель кафедры общей и социальной психологии

Воронежский Государственный Университет

Россия, г. Воронеж

**Соловьева Ирина Юрьевна**

доцент кафедры английского языка гуманитарных факультетов

Воронежский Государственный Университет

Россия, г. Воронеж

## ПРОБЛЕМА СЕМЕЙНОЙ СУБЪЕКТНОСТИ В СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ ПСИХОЛОГИИ

*Аннотация:* в статье раскрывается проблема семейной субъектности в социальной психологии, рассматриваются современные исследования семейной субъектности. Проводится анализ семейной субъектности.

**Ключевые понятия:** субъект, субъектность, семейная субъектность.

The family is based on marital relations which reflect both the biological and social nature of a person represented by the material and spiritual sphere of society.

The family is a dynamic entity. According to the law of development it goes through its life cycle which consists of the successive change of events and stages. However, the modern family is exposed to a lot of risks due to which its life cycle is quite short sometimes. Problems that negatively affect the stability of the family group and each family member separately, namely, the causes (both intraindividual and interindividual) that affect the breakdown of family unions have been at the center of scientific research for many decades.

It is obvious that the success and stability of the marriage, family identity, which determines adequate behavior, the necessary subjective position, optimal interaction with the environment and the entire system of the person's social connections depend on each spouse behavior. However, less attention is drawn to the problem of family subjectiveness in social psychology. Apparently, ignoring or underestimating the subjectiveness of the family as a small group is associated with the fear of losing the specific nature of this phenomenon. On the other hand, the subjective approach would help us to understand properly the features and functions of the family group [5].

According to modern sociological studies, family is one of the social institutions along with education, economics, religion and politics. The social institution of the family is defined as the model of social relations and behavior that structures a specific area of social (family) life.

A. Antonov defines family as a community of people based on a single family activity, connected by bonds of matrimony, parenthood, kinship. Its main functions are

reproductivity and intergenerational continuity, as well as children's socialization and maintenance of family members. The author believes that only such diverse relationships in the family allows us to talk about its solid structuring. N. Solovieva singles out that family is a small social group (cell) of society, the fundamental role of which is the relationship between husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters and other relatives, living together and leading common households [1] .

Analyzing the basic definitions of the family given by psychologists and other representatives of related sciences in different historical eras, it can be noted that most researchers rely on a systematic approach, considering the family unit as a social system that consists of groups of people interacting with each other. However, there is practically no research in which family is defined as a single subject.

The family as a group subject acts as an interconnected and mutually binding single mechanism, the main task of which is to form and meet its needs (physiological, communicative, cognitive, creative, social, etc.).

In this work subjectiveness means the ability to be a subject, the subjective potential of an individual person or a group, which may be materialized in specific types and forms of activity, or may not turn into reality [2].

Family subjectiveness is a way of the family as a social institution to be the subject of rights and obligations, an ability to protect them and be aware of them.

The subjectiveness of the family can be manifested through:

- family attitude to itself as an active participant in interaction with the surrounding reality;
- the willingness of the family to interact with other social institutions;
- family activity in interaction with other social structures (requests formation to the society, defending its own positions, choosing the ways and means of activity, initiative and willingness to take responsibility);
- the reflective ability of the family: correlation of the goals within the results of the activities, the adjustment of the choice of the goals and means of their achievement on the basis of such correlation, an adequate assessment of the effectiveness of its own life as well [3].

There are several characteristics of family subjectiveness.

First of all, family as a group subject has family rules, which are sustainable ways of behavior that determine the distribution of family roles and functions, and positions in the family hierarchy as well. These rules control the methods of interaction in the family, which in their natural development change within the beginning of a new stage in the family life cycle.

Secondly, we are talking about family cohesion as an integrative parameter of the family system. In a close-knit family group there is an emotional connection between its members, minimal rigidity to changing environmental conditions, their own independence and the immutability of family roles and rules governing the relationships.

Thirdly, marriage satisfaction as a kind of subjective assessment is always on the positive side. Another words, there is an adequate fulfillment of the family image that has been developed long before marriage itself. In this case, we can talk about spouses' satisfaction with family life.

Finally, family subjectiveness is manifested by a clearly formed role structure of the family, which reflects the measure of participation of its members in the management of family life, regulates the nature of decision-making in accordance with sociocultural norms and standards, and ensures the needs fulfilment of the family system [4].

Overall, we have shown that subjectiveness as a personality trait and the quality of a family group does not exist separately because it presupposes active interaction with reality through its own personal or family characteristics which in its turn can change their internal components. The formation of family subjectiveness is impossible without the development of subjectiveness of an individual and without family identity as well, which is the initial stage in the origin of the category «We as a Family Unit».

Based on a theoretical review of family subjectiveness, it can be assumed that there are other features of family subjectiveness, apart from those we have examined, which can be interconnected with the development of the family and each of the

spouses as a separate independent personality. They would appear as significant characteristics of subjectiveness at different stages of the family life cycle.

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