Interconnection of self-concept’s peculiarities and system of attitudes of psychoactive substance abused

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The paper discusses the basic psychological directions of the “Self”-concept and the system of attitudes of addictions study. The theoretical aspects of the study of mental functioning of the identities of persons suffering from addiction from the standpoint of “Self”-concept and system of attitudes.

Addiction of psychoactive substances remains dominant in the structure of other forms of abuses and is one of the most acute problems of modern society. The theoretical generalization of the phenomenon of the “Self”-concept of addicts showed underdevelopment, the unformation of the structures “Self”, the fuzziness of its borders, which substantially actualizes and confirms the needness for its study. More to a large extent, this applies to the study of the phenomenon of the “Self”-concept of addicts in conjunction with studying the system of attitudes as it is precisely in the relationship between the “Self”-concept and the system of relations, for the first time, there is the basis for the development of abuse.

The purpose of the study was to study the peculiarities of the “Self”-concept and the system of attitudes of a addicted person, as an important resource to overcome the life difficulties of chemically addicts.

For the purpose of research, we have used the following methods. For the study of “Self”-concept have been used: the method of diagnosis of interpersonal relationships (interpersonal diagnosis T. Leary), the method of 20 definitions of M. Kuhn and T. McParland “Who am I?”. The system of relations was studied using the method of free description and semantic differential Charles Osgood. Statistical methods of data processing the Mann–Whitney U test, the Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient, the Kendall rank correlation coefficient and cluster analysis.

The research sample consisted of 75 patients, of which 75 patients with drug abuse (opium addiction), aged 18–26, and 35 healthy persons, aged 18–27 years without signs of somatic pathology and drug addictions.

The findings suggest that unformed, defitstarnist structures of Self, blurring its boundaries, indicating the involvement of consciousness structures in the pathological process of the formation of addiction and the formation of subject-subject emotional stereotypes towards close women: the mother and the wife/girlfriend who are based on the depreciation mother’s social status and further in exaggerating the negative qualities of a partner.

The study of the phenomenon of “Self” - concept of addicts showed that this
The phenomenon is based on the background of authoritarianism, aggressiveness and, at the same time, the pursuit of social acceptance and acceptance, sacrifice of their own interests, an attempt to help others at their own expense, to be positive for the society.

The positive qualities of the “Self” - concept of chemical addicts are of an imaginary nature and are an “external mask” of crowding out the fact of the marginality of addiction.

The leading pattern of the “Self” - concept is the emotional-polar type of personality, resulting in a distorted motivational sphere, semantic accents are shifted, and they are largely determined by the relationship with the surrounding world.

For the system of attitudes of chemical addicts characterized the atypical formation of subject-subjective emotional stereotypes to close women: the mother, the wife / girlfriend, based on the devaluation of the social status of the mother, having an extension in magnifying negative qualities of the partner in relation to positive qualities, which allows to make an assumption of a devaluation of socially acceptable grounds through the unconscious awareness of the stigmatized attitude of society towards the marginality of their behavior.

The study of the relationship between the features of the “Self” -concept and the system of attitudes between addicts made it possible to identify reliable correlations. The relationship between the individual attitudes towards the wife / girlfriend and the content characteristics of the “Self”- concept (“Who am I?”) can be interpreted as traction from addicts before the transfer of guilt to a partner. The interrelation of subjective attitudes correlates with the self-esteem of the subjects and is expressed in reliable connections of average strength with the results of “Who am I?” And “Self” - real. Established strong connection of the meaningful characteristic of the “Self”- concept - “Self”-real with the system of individual attitudes towards the mother and “Perfect” woman can be interpreted as the failure of the model “Perfect” women of addicts, given the weak links between different assessment scales, indicating the desire to find a partner, not similar to either the mother or the “perfect” way that can be interpreted as the deliberate search for a disadvantageous party to justify its addictive behavior.

*Key words: self-concept; consciousness; system of attitudes; drug abuse; addiction.*
Introduction

One of the most acute problems of the modern society is addiction to psychoactive substances (surfactants), in the structure of which alcoholism and drug addiction are the main constituents representing a global threat to humanity at the turn of the XX-XXI centuries.

Recent estimates suggest that between 8% and 10% of the world's population are directly involved in drug abuse. The group of high risk for this profile is 10-12% of the population. [6].

According to official statistics, the problem of drug abuse has become catastrophic. The number of patients undergoing medical care in narcological dispensaries in Ukraine reaches more than 1 million people.

The epidemic nature and population size of this problem is a welcoming nature of pathological passion, the scope of medical and biological and socio-economic consequences, which give rise to an abuse of psychoactive substances on the category of social pathology, which represents a real threat to the health of the nation and contributes to the phenomenon of depopulation, as well as genocide of the young generation [1, 10].

In Ukraine, drug abuse in the structure of other forms of addiction to psychoactive substances remains dominant.

The level of drug addiction in Ukraine is the highest in Europe. In Ukraine, the drug problem has reached a critical point. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), drugs are ranked first among the perpetrators of premature death. In recent years, the number of people taking psychoactive substances has increased 10-15 times. WHO claims that in Ukraine, about 300 thousand only injecting drug users, and each year they become 10% more [2, 6, 8].

Ukrainians are among the world leaders. Every year Ukrainians become less than half a million. Of the 700,000 dying annually - 400,000 die from cardiovascular disease, which is mainly the result of an unhealthy lifestyle and, above all, the use of drug.

In Ukraine, in 2017, under the supervision of drug addiction establishments of the Ministry of Health Ukraine came from the first use of a diagnosed 6926 people with acute intoxication and mental disorders with harmful effects through the use of psychoactive surfactants (with the exception of alcohol or tobacco) [14].

Abuse of psychoactive substances for a long time considered exclusively from the medical point of view. The study of this problem prevails in clinical and psychological studies, in which the main role is given to the detection of premorbid characterological features in this category of individuals. While in this problem there is also an obvious psychological aspect associated with the study of the peculiarities of the “Self” - concept and interpersonal interaction in the structure of the system of attitudes as important resources to overcome the life difficulties of drug addicts. Since, in the sphere of relations, for the first time there is a basis for the development of addiction [3, 7].

The analysis of the context of various studies of the phenomenon of the “Self” - concept allows us to quite unambiguously conclude that in person, the “Self”- concept is not a fixed entity, that is, it is not a mental institution, although this text is not spoken about anywhere. “Self”- concept – is a concept that defines, albeit a very specific set of ideas of man about himself, but still simple representations associated with self-esteem [4, 5].

The “Self”- concept is traditionally studied in the context of its various interpretations: as a set of attitudes on oneself, through evaluative and behavioral components, because of its importance for the inner life of person and for his expectations. And so abroad “Self”- concept was studied in detail in the context of conceptual approaches of its origin [7].

In the multidimensional studies of the phenomenon of “Self” - concept that relate mainly to the normal development of the individual, the general laws are not fully disclosed and universal laws of the origin, functioning, formation and development of the “Self”- concept in cases of pathology, especially in people with different forms of addictive behavior. Even more so, this applies to the research of the phenomenon of the “Self”- concept of drug addicts in conjunction with the study of the system of relations, as it is precisely in the relationship “Self”- concept and the system of relations for the first time there is a basis for the development of abuse [9, 13].

These circumstances substantially actualize and confirm the need to study the phenomenon of the “Self”- concept and the system of relations in individuals with chemical addiction.

The goal of the study is to identify the peculiarities of the “Self”- concept and the system of relations of abused individuals.

Materials and Methods

For the purpose of research, we have used the following methods. For the study of “Self”- concept have been used: the method of diagnosis of interpersonal relationships (interpersonal diagnosis T. Leary), the method of 20 definitions of M. Kuhn and T. McParland “Who am I?”. The system of relations was studied using the method of free description and semantic differential Charles Osgood. Statistical methods of data processing the Mann-Whitney U test, the Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient, the Kendall rank correlation coefficient and cluster analysis.

The research sample consisted of 75 patients, of which 75 patients with drug abuse (opium addiction), aged 18-26, and 35 healthy persons, aged 18-27 years without signs of somatic pathology and drug additions.

Results and Discussions

The “Self” - concept can be described as a collection of all representations of the individual about themselves, combined with their assessment. Descriptive component of the “Self” - concept - the image of “me” or the picture of
“Self”; An ingredient related to the attitude towards oneself or to its particular qualities is self-esteem or self-acceptance. The “Self” - concept defines not just what the individual represents, but also what he thinks about himself, as he looks at his active principle and the possibilities for development in the future [11, 12].

Especially important is the study of the “Self” - concept as a factor in the formation of psychological abuse of drug addicts.

A comparative qualitative and quantitative analysis of the results of the “Self” - concept of the surveyed and control groups was carried out.

The results of the study of the “Self” - concept, namely the factors “Self” real and “Self” ideal in the method of diagnosis of interpersonal relationships (interpersonal diagnosis T. Leary) in the surveyed groups are presented in tables 1, 2.

### Table 1

| Indicator              | Addicts | Control group | Asymptotic significance |
|------------------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Authoritative          | 19.88   | 31.12         | 0.006*                   |
| Selfish                | 21.78   | 29.22         | 0.069                    |
| Aggressive             | 19.44   | 31.56         | 0.003*                   |
| Suspect                | 27.84   | 23.16         | 0.252                    |
| Submits                | 25.74   | 25.26         | 0.906                    |
| Abused                 | 23.46   | 27.54         | 0.319                    |
| Benevolent            | 19.44   | 31.56         | 0.003*                   |
| Altruistic             | 18.8    | 32.2          | 0.001*                   |
| Dominance index        | 20.18   | 30.82         | 0.010*                   |
| Index of friendliness  | 22.64   | 28.36         | 0.165                    |

Notes: * - p <0.05;

Analyzing the results, we noticed that all the indicators of the “Self” real of addicts were lower compared to the control group, but only some of the components of interpersonal relationships such as authoritarianism, aggressiveness, benevolence, altruisticness in combination with the high index of domination index were statistically significant. Graphically comparative characteristic of the factor “Self” - concept - “Self” real at addicts compared with the control group is presented in Fig. 1

This indicates that the “Self” real of addicts formed at the expense of despotic features of character, hostility towards others, and social behavior. At the same time, they seek to obtain social approval and acceptance, can bring their own interests to the victim, try to help others at their own expense, to be positive for society, superseding the fact of the marginality of addiction. But a statistically significant indicator of altruism shows the imaginary character of all positive qualities that in this case they are an “external mask” used by addicts to achieve the goal and exit from an asocial class from the standpoint of society.
The “Self” ideal of addicts is not an addition to the real one, but acts as a separate component, which is formed on other valuable landmarks.

### Table 2

| Indicator         | Addicts Average rank | Control group Average rank | Asymptotic significance |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Authoritative     | 22.12                | 28.88                      | 0.098                    |
| Selfish           | 25.2                 | 25.8                       | 0.883                    |
| Aggressive        | 23.86                | 27.14                      | 0.423                    |
| Suspect           | 27.9                 | 23.10                      | 0.242                    |
| Submits           | 29.76                | 21.24                      | 0.037*                   |
| Abused            | 29.32                | 21.68                      | 0.061                    |
| Benevolent        | 24.5                 | 26.5                       | 0.623                    |
| Altruistic        | 21.74                | 29.26                      | 0.066                    |
| Dominance index   | 19.24                | 31.76                      | 0.002*                   |
| Index of friendliness | 24.6            | 26.4                       | 0.662                    |

Notes: * - p <0.05;

Graphically, the comparative characteristic of the factor “Self” - concept – “Self” ideal of addicts compared with the control group presented in Fig. 2.

![Graphical representation of the factor “Self” - concept – “Self” ideal of addicts compared with the control group](image)

**Fig. 2. Comparative diagram of the factor “Self” - concept – “Self” ideal (middle rank)**

This is reflected in their quest for leadership and domination or subjugation to a stronger leader, depending on the situation. The factor of social approval loses its significance.

The graphic characteristic of the asymptotic significance of the factor’s “Self” - concept is presented in Fig. 3.
The study of the “Self” - concept was also carried out using the Twenty Statements Test (TST) of M. Kuhn and T. McParland “Who am I?”. This technique is appropriate for the study of the content characteristics of the identity of the individual. The question "Who am I?" is directly related to the characteristics of his own perception of a person himself, that is, with her image, “Self” or “Self” - concept.

The results of the study on this methodology were subject to qualitative analysis (at the individual level) and to determine the frequency characteristics (in the case of group research) presented in the table 3.

Table 3
The meaningful characteristics of the "Self" - concept at addicts and healthy (M. Kuhn and T. McParland)

| Indicator               | Addicts Average rank | Control group Average rank | Asymptotic significance |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Self-esteem             | 24,14                | 26,86                     | 0,494                   |
| Type of personality     | 21,18                | 29,82                     | 0,011*                  |
| Personality differentiation | 24,72               | 26,28                     | 0,702                   |

Notes: * - p <0.05;

Graphically comparative characteristic of the concept of “Self”- concept of addicts compared with the control group is presented in Fig. 4.

Fig. 4. Comparative diagram of the content characteristics of "self"-concept (M. Kuhn and T. McParland)
In the study of the concept of the "Self" - concept of the addiction and healthy statistically significant was the indicator - a type of personality that by M. Kuhn and T. McParland conditionally includes three types of personality: emotionally polar, balanced, doubtful.

Analyzing the results of our researches, we noticed that in both groups the most emotional-polar type of person with predominant dominance in addicts in relation to the control group is leading: 84% and 53.8% respectively. Such an abuse could have been formed at the expense of one age rating of the subjects, and the domination in the group of addicts may be due primarily to the addiction's syndrome.

With this type of personality, one can imagine everything in the polar world, which testifies to the primitive, dichotomous thinking of addicts and is one of the symptoms of alexithymia, which manifests itself inability to describe the words of their own emotions, the inability to recognize them. This in turn does not allow abusive personalities to understand feelings and feelings of other people and to sympathize with them. As a result, the world is gradually becoming poorer in feeling and richer in events. This limitation of sensory connections with the world reduces the ability to distinguish the feeling from bodily sensations, respond adequately to stress and conflict situations, to understand the world in all its complexity. Like this, the motivational sphere of addicts is distorted, semantic accents are shifted, and they are largely determined by the relationship with the surrounding world.

The study of the system of attitudes of addicts were the construction of a model for studying the relationship of persons with abuse in the triad: the subject - subject to the psychoactive substance, the subject - object relation to other people, subject - object Pull.

According to the method of free description, we define the subject-subject relationship of a mother, a woman / girlfriend and "perfect" woman.

Graphically, the comparative characteristic of the asymptotic meanings is presented in Fig. 5.

**Fig. 5. Asymptotic significance of individual attitudes towards established goals (* p <0.05)**

Significant indices of individual attitude towards the wife / girlfriend showed negative and positive qualities. Analyzing the results of the middle rank, we noticed that in relation to the wife / girlfriend in the addiction and control group there is an inversely proportional relationship: negative qualities play a more significant role, whereas for the control group they are positive.

By assessing the attitudes towards the mother in the middle grade, we noticed that the control group was dependent on a decrease in the critical attitude towards the mother's social status. Mother - is, first, a woman who gave life, and her social position does not play a significant role in the system of attitudes of addicts.

Thus, the system of attitudinal additions is characterized by the atypical formation of subject-subjective emotional stereotypes to close women: the mother, the wife / girlfriend, who are based on the devaluation of the social status of the mother, which has an extension in magnifying the negative qualities of the partner in relation to positive qualities.

Graphically, the comparative characteristic of the individual attitudes of addicts and healthy to the mother and the wife / girlfriend is presented in Fig. 6th and 7th.
It can be assumed that the dependents undergo a depreciation of socially acceptable bases due to the subconscious awareness of the stigmatized attitude of society to the marginality of their behavior.

The system of installations dependent on the mother, the wife / girlfriend and the “perfect” woman was also found in evaluative judgments, which are classified by the consciousness of the scheme of logical dichotomy. The interaction of the addiction with the weighty subjects was evaluated on three scales: assessment (A), strength (S), activity (A).

Graphically comparative characteristic of subjective attitudes (average rank) with respect to the wife / girlfriend - personalities according to the semantic differential. Ch. Osgood of addicts and healthy is presented in Fig. 8.
Fig. 8. Subjective attitude (average rank) to the wife / girlfriend in the investigated contingent

Analysis of the data revealed the statistical significance of the positive values of the indicators of subjective attitudes (Assessment, Strengths, Activities) only in relation to the wife / girlfriend in both the addicts and the control group. But in addict’s data indicators are much lower.

The assessment in our study shows the level of attractiveness, the sympathy with which the wife / girlfriend is endowed, the Force manifests the perception of the personal qualities of the wife / girlfriend, in the imagination as addicts and in a group without a chemical addiction.

In our opinion, this tendency of indicators in relation to the wife / girlfriend and in the group of addicts, and in the control group may be related to the same age category of the respondents surveyed, according to which the wife / girlfriend acts as the main emotional, psychological and physical partner, that does not vary radically depending on the presence or absence of addiction. The lower level of indices in the dependent is evidenced by the general decrease in the level of attentiveness, including the system of attitudes.

In psychological literature, a few attentions are paid to the study of the relationship between the “Self”-concept and the system of attitudes, in particular, in the group of addicts. The study of this aspect makes it possible to follow this multicomponent, dynamic system of representations of an addict about themselves and their relatives (the mother, the wife / girlfriend, “perfect” woman), related not only to their own attitude, but also to the established goals (the mother, the wife / girlfriend, “perfect” woman), on the basis of which drug addicts build their activities and interactions.

The study of the relationship between the features of the “Self” - concept and the system of attitudes was studied at the expense of the following methods: the method of diagnosis of interpersonal relations (interpersonal diagnosis of T. Leary), the method of 20 definitions of M. Kuhn and T. McParland, “Who am I?”, A free description method, Semantic Differential (SD) Ch.Osgood, in drug addicts and control group. The statistical analysis was carried out using the Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient, cluster analysis, and the Kendall rank correlation coefficient.

Analyzing the results of the correlation analysis of data of the spearman rank correlation, we were able to trace the significant differences between the pattern and the strength of the connections of the addicts and the control group. According to this analysis, the interdependent indices of the semantic differential scale (Ch. Osgood) - the mother, the wife / girlfriend and “perfect” woman had strong direct ties between them, indicating the normal ability of the subjects studied to form good and lasting relationships. Addicts show similar indicators of the inability of a model of an “Perfect” woman given the weak links between different assessment scales, and also shows cravings for finding a partner that is not similar to either the mother or the “perfect” way that can be interpreted as a deliberate search for a disadvantageous party to justify its addictive behavior.

Analyzing the obtained data, we noticed that the correlation analysis of the results of the methods aimed at studying the interconnection of the “Self” - concept system and the system of attitudes revealed, in general, weaker connections, both positive and negative, in the group of addicts, which is most likely to be explained, a poorly formed and well-formed system of values and achievements. In the comparative analysis of the “Self”
real and the "Self" ideal of the addicts, there is a tendency to increase in the "ideal" way of thirst for dominance and property, while this trend in the control group has a reciprocal nature: as expressed in the weakened forces of interconnection a set of opposite indicators in the "ideal" model relative to the real in the control group. To evaluate the association of the results of various test scales of addicts, we used a combination of methods of hierarchical clusterization followed by a rank correlation analysis of Kendall.

Based on the low data dispersion, for a semantic differential (Ch. Osgood), we carried out a general clustering of all variables and allocated 4 significant clusters. The results of the methodology of the 20 definitions of M. Kuhn and T. McParland "Who am I?" Were also classified together with the formation of 5 clusters. Due to the high level of dispersion, for the MWO, there were 3 sets of variables according to the content dependencies: mother's MW, MVA wife / girlfriend and MWO of "perfect" woman. MTO of mother and wife had 5 significant clusters, MWO of "perfect" woman - 4 clusters, respectively. System "Self"- concept was also cut into "Self"- real and "Self"- ideal. This tendency was formed due to the low equilibrium of the correlation between the parameters of these models, each of which was classified into 5 clusters. Thus, each of the subjects was assigned to a particular cluster in each of the 7 classifiers, on the basis of which the assessment of the strength of the relationship between these classifiers was carried out due to the rank correlation analysis.

The interconnection between the features of the "Self" - concept and the system of attitudes

| Indicator                  | SD   | MVO The mother | MVO the wife / girlfriend | "Who am I?" | "Self" real | "Self" ideal |
|---------------------------|------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| SD                        | 1,000| 0.354*         | -0.182                    | 0.130       | 0.305*      | 0.368*      | 0.215       |
| MVO The mother            | -    | 1,000          | -0.019                    | 0.226       | 0.108       | 0.394*      | 0.121       |
| MVO the wife / girlfriend | -    | -              | 1.000                     | -0.102      | -0.366*     | -0.124      | -0.124      |
| "Who am I?"               | -    | -              | -                         | 1.000       | 0.110       | 0.348*      | 0.130       |
| "Self" real               | -    | -              | -                         | -           | 1.000       | 0.138       | 0.281*      |
| "Self" ideal              | -    | -              | -                         | -           | -           | 1.000       | 0.051       |

Notes: * p <0.05;

Analyzing the results of the table, we noticed that according to the obtained criteria, the wife / girlfriend (free description method) have a negative connections with all other classifiers, including reliable links of average strength with the patterns of the "Self" - concept ( "Who am I?"), Which can be interpreted as traction of addicts before the transfer of guilt to a partner. At the same time, the semantic differential correlates with the self-esteem of the subjects, which is expressed in reliable connections of average strength with the results of "Who am I?" And "Self"-real. Together with the strong connection "Self" -real with the mother factor and "perfect" woman (the method of free description). This pattern can be interpreted as the drag and dependence of drug addicts from women, similar to their mother; this trend was traced back to the stage of linear correlation analysis.

Conclusions

Addiction on psychoactive substances in the structure of other forms of abuse remains the dominant. The theoretical generalization of the phenomenon of the "Self" - concept of the abuse person showed underdevelopment, the formation of structures "Self", the fuzziness of its boundaries. The diffuse boundaries of the "Self" leads to the fact that the individual is not able to navigate and rely on their own ideas and feelings and are forced to act in accordance with the circumstances.

The "Self" - concept of addicts is based on the background of authoritarianism, aggressiveness and at the same time the pursuit of social acceptance and acceptance, sacrifice of their own interests, an attempt to help others at their own expense, to be positive for society. The positive qualities of the "Self" - concept of addicts have an imaginary character and are an "external mask" of crowding out the fact of marginality. The leading pattern of the "Self" - concept is the emotional-polar type of personality, resulting in a distorted motivational sphere, semantic accents are shifted, and they are largely determined by the relationship with the surrounding world. Abusive personalities are closed to new experiences and centered on negative experiences.

The system of relations of the addicts is based on personalization of the drug, while the attitude to other people and to itself is improvised, and the surrounding people are perceived as objects for manipulation.

The system of SAW-related attitudes has a special formation of emotional stereotypes for close relatives: the mother and the wife / girlfriend who are based on devaluing the mother's social status and magnifying the negative qualities of a partner (the wife / girlfriend) in relation to positive qualities, which allows making assumptions about social impairment acceptable bases at the expense of the stigmatized attitude of society towards the marginality of their behavior.

The relationship of individual attitudes towards the wife / girlfriend and the meaningful characteristics of the
“Self” - concept, which can be regarded as attraction from drug addicts to the transfer of guilt to a partner, is revealed. The relationship between subjective attitudes towards the mother and the “perfect” woman and the self-esteem of the subjects, which can be interpreted as the failure of the model of an “perfect” woman, indicating the desire to find a partner that is not similar to either the mother or the “perfect” in a way that can be interpreted as a deliberate search for a disadvantageous party to justify their addictive behavior.

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