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A Study of Generalizing Judgment

Koichiro Saito

The purpose of this study was to develop a method to decide the degree of generalizing judgment about the events in everyday-life, and to ascertain its relation to the sex and age of the subjects and their personality traits.

Fifteen questions printed on a sheet were given to each subject. The construction of each question was: (1) a statement was given about a particular behavior of a certain imaginary person, and (2) four alternatives were given in short sentences stating the characteristic of the individual which was classified in accordance with the degrees of decisiveness. The subjects were asked to choose one of the four alternatives in their own judgment regarding how decisively the imaginary person owns the characteristic.

The subjects in this study consists of second year students of junior high school, and the first and third year students of senior high school. The results obtained was that boys showed significantly higher level than girls in generalizing judgment and that this tendency decreased as the age increased both in boys and girls.

Another study was devised utilizing the same questionnaire. This time, college freshmen were used as the subjects. In this study, the correlation was sought between the questionnaire and thirteen traits acquired from a personality inventory arranged by the staff of student personnel department. The result showed that the score was between +0.1 and -0.1 — very close to 0 — in any one of the thirteen correlation-coefficients.