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"Communication behavior of people with Asperger's syndrome"

– summary of the doctoral dissertation

The dissertation "Communication behavior of people with Asperger syndrome" is the result of research work devoted to the communication behavior of people diagnosed on the autism spectrum. The basic deficit recognized in people on the autism spectrum, which includes Asperger's syndrome, is the social dimension of communication. Due to the broad scope of the term *autism spectrum* and the large diversity of patients - from non-speaking to those in whom particular language subsystems have developed, the assessment of communication skills still seems to be incomplete and requires expansion. The search for possibilities to describe the communication behavior of people on the autism spectrum became the basis for this work.

The aim of the work is to broaden the scientific perspective relating to speech disorders conditioned by a development path other than neurotypical ones. The research results described in the dissertation will allow us to determine the determinants of features that may be helpful in differentiating the language and communication symptoms of people with Asperger's syndrome. The research covered a group of thirty children and adults. The developed research tool in the form of a photo questionnaire taking into account various aspects of the interactive approach to communication allowed for the collection of a large amount of linguistic facts. The obtained linguistic material was analyzed in terms of the ability to read and design communicative behaviors, the type of dialogic reactions occurring in the respondents and metatext operators.

The doctoral thesis consists of two parts: theoretical and empirical. The theoretical part contains chapters on language and communication and the description of Asperger's syndrome - its symptoms and pathomechanism. The theoretical part also includes a chapter describing the methodological basis of the research, including information on research methods and tools, as

well as formulated research questions and hypotheses. The empirical part is an analysis of the communication behavior of people with Asperger's syndrome, carried out on the basis of my own research. Additionally, this part includes the results and interpretation of the research as well as conclusions from the research procedure. The work contains a bibliography and a list of tables and charts. The work is accompanied by an annex with a research tool and research protocols.

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