Chapter 29
IDENTIFICATION OF THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL MODEL OF SUBJECTIVE TIME EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT: A comprehensive metaanalysis of empirical studies on the phenomenon of subjective time-distortion has provided strong evidence that a close relationship between subjective time-distortion occurrence and subjective significance (or emotional judgment) of stimulus exists. The authors suggest an original model of subjective time passage experience consisting of two bipolar dimensions – emotional judgment and perceived speed of time passage. Experimental and statistical verification of this model is the main objective of this study. Participants were 30 undergraduate students (15 males and 15 females) ranging in age from 20 to 26 years. Sophisticated experimental design based on the presentation of music samples with a specific emotion potential was developed. Actual emotional experience triggered by the music samples will be registered via semantic differential technique, together with retrospective time duration and time passage judgment. Eysenck Personality Questionnaire was also administrated. Data will be processed by variety of inductive statistics methods. The identified multidimensional model may significantly enrich many areas of psychological theory and practice. Above all, it is expected to provide valuable data for the development of a new psychodiagnostic method for affective disorders assessment.

Keywords: time, perception, emotionality, multidimensional model.

INTRODUCTION

Paradigms in time experience research

There are two most influential paradigms in time experience research, which need to be distinguished – the prospective and the retrospective paradigm (Block & Zakay, 2010). While in prospective paradigm, the subjects are told in advance that they are expected to make time judgment, in the retrospective paradigm, the subjects are not aware of this fact (Block, 1990). There is a consensus among contemporary time researchers that they are saturated by different psychological mechanisms and that, for any proper progress in the field of time experience research, these two should not be confused (Wearden, 2005).

Two basic types of subjective time experience

Subjective time experience is accessible to experimental measurement in two basic modalities – time duration and time passage judgment. While time duration judgment can