

**PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLES AND ATTACHMENT TO SIGNIFICANT
OTHERS IN EARLY ADULTHOOD**

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ABSTRACT

The dissertation reveals the important and significant relations between the two fundamental constructs – parenting style and attachment. Parenting style and attachment are still in the focus of research interest, which is evidence for the importance of the chosen topic. Our desire to clarify parenting as a system and to enrich the existing idea of parenthood nowadays, thereby further develop research underlies the research. In this line one of the highlights of the work is in-depth study of the perceived parenting style in early adulthood. The wide research body does not provide clear and definitive answers regarding the inconsistent behavior of the parents in the process of interactions and the implementation of practices from different parenting styles. We believe that in today's society, we can talk about mixed parenting styles practicing and experiencing.

In this regard, the dissertation outlines several significant moments. It is focused on the study of perceived parenting style in early adulthood – an age in which research on this construct are very few. An important point is mixed parenting styles designated to reveal in greater depth perception of parenting assessed retrospectively. The study traces formed style of attachment and reproducibility in terms of various significant figures in life – mother, father, intimate partner, and best friend. Also the relationship between perceived parenting style and of the model of attachment in early adulthood is examined. The influence of both constructs is outlined in terms of certain individual characteristics. The questions that we put in this study, as well as the responses received have both scientific value and practical applicability.

We can summarize several key conclusions:

1. It is proven that responsiveness and warmth in relationships with parents are important in assessing the parenthood retrospectively. Over time in the evaluation of parenting, people are more likely to keep the level of warmth and responsiveness than the level of control and rigor.

2. A thorough understanding of the characteristics of the perceived parenting style reveals that regardless of who of the parents practices a style, it is perceived in the same way. Warmth, support and understanding ensured by at least one of the two parents promote better personal development and a stable attachment. We also found partial dominance of the perceived parenting style of one of the parents in shaping the total perceived parenting style. This result allows us to state that this study opens up new horizons because we don't know any other study that outlines the dominance of one of the parents in the overall perception of parenting.
3. Our study proved the existence of perceived mixed parenting styles in early adulthood that have their place in future research. We have evidenced existence of three mixed styles in early adulthood – authoritative-permissive, authoritarian-neglectful and undifferentiated style. All they on the one hand confirm the flexibility and the changes that occur to the parents, but on the other hand stress on the importance of responsiveness and warmth. Undifferentiated parenting style is emerging as a flexible style that cannot be defined unambiguously, but perception depends rather on the overall family environment.
4. Study of the interaction between parenting style and attachment in different interaction contexts reveal that the specifics of parenting style are essential in the formation of attachment, which in its turn regulates the individual behavior. Main point here is that the attachment is constructed with a relatively stable character and extends to all significant figures.

In conclusion, we can point once again the theoretical and practical implications of this study. In theoretical plan this dissertation had laid the foundations of further research in the field of mixed parenting styles and the factors that influence the perception of the styles which were not fully addressed. In practical terms, these results may be incorporated in the development of various programs - schools for parents, counseling, individual and group work. Parenting is in the focus of public attention in view to the progressively increasing problems in education of young people. Within the dissertation topic is the problem of the growing number of abandoned children in school demonstrated aggression, bullying, alienation, drug abuse and others. These phenomena directly correspond to the influence of parenting style on partnership models of personality.