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SENSITIVITY TO PUNISHMENT, SENSITIVITY TO REWARD AND SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS AS PREDICTORS OF THE REFERENTIAL THINKING

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Antecedents: In previous works, referential thinking was predicted by clinical and dispositional variables such as social anxiety or vulnerability to depression (Rodríguez-Testal, Senín-Calderón & Fernández-Jiménez, submitted to revision).

Objectives and hypotheses: We propose to find personality variables to characterize the emergence of referential thinking. We predict a greater referential thinking in subjects with a high sensitivity to punishment and higher scores on social anxiety.

Methods:

Participants: 366 subjects selected from the general population, 66.6% women, mean age = 33.18 (SD=12.79).

Materials: We used the REF-scale (Lenzenweger et al., 1997) adapted to Spanish language, GHQ-28 (Goldberg, 1996), SPSRQ (Torrubia et al., 2001) and The Revised Self-Consciousness Scale (Scheier & Carver, 1985).

It was applied a cross-sectional design and a correlation method. All the analysis were accepted at $p < .05$.

Results: The multiple linear regression analysis showed the importance of the clinical variable of depression, public self-consciousness, and sensitivity to reward and punishment as predictors of referential thinking (34% of the variance explained). The discriminant analysis according to scores in referential thinking was significant ($\Lambda = .87$, $p = .001$). The combination of the above variables correctly classified 85.1% of cases.

Conclusions: Subjects more concerned about how they are perceived by others tend to a greater presence of self-references, although they don't show a high score in social anxiety. Susceptibility to reward and high vulnerable to punishment are the personality variables that best predicted referential thinking.