

Narrative psychological content analysis of autobiographical episodes of children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder - new diagnostic cues

JULIA ECSI¹

Abstract

The exploration of intraindividual processes is a possible way to reveal complex life historical paths while the distinction of individual specificities may be based on additional information obtained from autobiographical episodes. The analysis of autobiographical episodes enables certain components, formal features or variables to be investigated in order to draw conclusions on the internal working models, identity state, maturity and integrity of the self. Based on this approach, this study was aimed at exploring self-images of children diagnosed with ADHD disorder and underpinning the hypothesis that these children may have difficulties with self-reflective functioning, the reflection on their behavioural problems when they are to judge their own conduct and social situation. In contrast, it is hypothesized that autobiographical episodes provided by the children are more suitable for identifying and demonstrating their conflicts and difficulties emerging in social interactions and having crucial importance in several life domains.

Keywords

ADHD, behavioural problems, autobiographical episode, self-image