G.S. KOSTIUK’S PSYCHOLOGICAL SYSTEM: THE THEORY OF PERSONALITY

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In the twentieth century, G.S. Kostiuk, the founder of modern Ukrainian psychology, an outstanding national scientist, created an original psychological system [1], one of which cores, by our definition, is the theory of personality. The scientist analysed deeply theoretically and methodologically the synergistic vectors forming a comprehensive palette of the personality psychology from the point of view of self-development [2; 3]. Let us outline his some conceptual theses.

One of G.S. Kostiuk’s core ideas is his understanding of personality as a “structure of structures”. The scientist noted that “in fact, personality, is the structure of structures connected not only horizontally but also vertically or hierarchically (i.e. structures of varying complexity are aligned - more complex structures include simpler ones)” [2; 65].

G.S. Kostiuk paid great attention to the problem of external and internal in personality development. Explaining the conditions of personality development, he analyzed the complex relationship between external and internal conditions of such development, which “are opposites that are interconnected and transform into each other” [2; 146]. The scientist highlighted the mechanism of their transition: “external, objective influences, assimilated by an individual, becomes an internal, subjective condition for his/her further development, which determines his/her susceptibility to new influences, active search for new objects needed for his/her developing activities” [2; 146].

According to G.S. Kostiuk, personality means a system of internal conditions: “personality is a very complex, holistic and differentiated, stable and changeable system of internal conditions that determine one’s behaviour…” [2; 148]. That is, the conceptual field of personality as a system of internal conditions can be described by several features such as complexity, integrity, differentiation, stability, variability. The system dichotomies are noteworthy: integrity – differentiation, stability – variability; this view gives a special accuracy and uniqueness of the scientist’s ideas on personality.

Thus, G.S. Kostiuk put forward a conceptually important question on “the unity and relationship of external and internal influences” for personality development. The scientist emphasized: “by considering certain phenomena appearing during personality development, we must find out the unity of external and internal conditions that lead to such appearance” [2; 147].
In this context, it is important that G.S. Kostiuk included into his considerations the problem of setting, proposed by D.M. Uznadze, “the founder of the Georgian school of psychologists” (A.S. Prangishvili) [4; 7]. “The unity of external and internal conditions of an individual - emphasized G.S. Kostiuk, - clearly manifested in research on one's setting formation (D.M. Uznadze). According to these studies, an individual's behaviour is determined by environmental influences not directly, but due to their holistic reflection by an agent through setting” [2; 59-60].

G.S. Kostiuk turned to D.M. Uznadze's research repeatedly. Thus, highlighting the problem of “external/internal ratio” and analyzing the issue of internal contradictions as the driving forces of personality development, the scientist stressed the difference between “conscious and unconscious tendencies” determined by D.M. Uznadze. “As it was proven by the experimental study (D.M. Uznadze and others), settings are formed in the course of conscious activity (for example, students solve educational problems of certain types, categories) and act further, without being aware by an individual” [2; 94-95].

We should emphasize that G.S. Kostiuk highly valued the scientific achievements of D.M. Uznadze, who created a unique Georgian psychological school, which achievements were vividly revealed in the fundamental work “Psychological studies dedicated to the 85th anniversary of D.M. Uznadze’s birth” and received the highest evaluation of the world's leading psychologists [4].

Finally, we should note that the theory of personality created by the founder of modern Ukrainian psychology, G.S. Kostiuk, generalizes the whole constellation of fruitful ideas in the examined field, which requires separate consideration.

References: