Let’s make things better-2

Mieke Brekelmans
Theoretical base

SITAR
The Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research
Interpersonal theory - origin

Interpersonal Diagnosis of Personality

A Functional Theory and Methodology for Personality Evaluation

Understanding personality from the behavior of people in interaction with others
Interpersonal Theory
Understanding the dynamics of interactions

Observer perception
Other perception
Self perception
Meta-perception
Collective perception

Perceptions

Person A
Person B

Time scale
Micro

Macro
Interpersonal profile
System’s Social Climate
Relationship
Real time interaction

Context
Situation
General context

Interpersonal profile
Perceptions

Interpersonal Theory
Understanding the dynamics of interactions
Interpersonal theory based definitions

• **Interpersonal perception**
  Interpersonal meaning attached to behavior

• **Relationship**
  relatively stable pattern in interpersonal perceptions of the interactions of two participants

• **Classroom social climate**
  relatively stable pattern in the whole of interpersonal perceptions of interactions in a specific class context
Interpersonal variables
Interpersonal Circle

Agency

Communion
Circumplex structure vs. Simple structure
Teacher Interpersonal Circle

- enforcing
- steering
- reprimanding
- friendly
- dissatisfied
- understanding
- uncertain
- complying

CONTROL

AFFILIATION
Interpersonal Circle
Different types of control

- Psychological control
- Behavioral control
Teacher IC and Student IC
Promise of interpersonal theory for studying educational relationships

- **Focus Interpersonal theory is on interactions:** How the interpersonal behaviors of two participants in interaction, f.e. teachers and students, may fit together and influence each other.

- AT/SDT focus is more individual (student) oriented from a developmental perspective
Promise of interpersonal theory for studying educational relationships

- Interpersonal theory: Interpersonal constructs are a blend of two dimensions

- AT/SDT: interpersonal constructs have a simple structure.
Interpersonal Circle vs. Interpersonal Profile

Diagram showing the comparison between an interpersonal circle and an interpersonal profile. The circle represents the interpersonal circle, while the profile shows the interpersonal profile with points A and C.
Types of Interpersonal profiles

- Repressive
- Authoritative
- Disorderly
- Tolerant

Ideal
Interpersonal Profiles
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Improvement 1

Better use of the blended character of interpersonal constructs: Circular reasoning

by

1. Using the angle of the vector of interpersonal profiles (circular statistics)
2. Circular coding of behavior.
Joystick procedure
Joint scoring of both dimensions
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Improvement 2

Understanding interpersonal perceptions

Gain more insight into the relative importance of the different components
Teacher perception: components

- General stereotype teacher
- Interpersonal profile this teacher
- Situational behavior this teacher
- Student’s unique perception
Student interpersonal perceptions of their teachers on different time scales:

From a macro- to a micro-level time scale

• Past 25 years: 1985-2009
• During teachers’ careers
• Within a school year
• Within lessons
1985-2009

The teaching career
Control during the teaching career

Experience (years)

Control
Affiliation during the teaching career

Experience (years)

Affiliation
Control and Affiliation during the teaching career

1. Student teachers
2. Experience 1-3 years
3. Experience 9-11 years
4. Experience more than 25 years
Control and Affiliation during the first 4 months of the school year

best fitting models and average growth trajectory
Interpersonal behavior during lessons
State Space Grids
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Relations between time scales

Improvement 3

More studies that combine analysis on different time scales

Focus on both level and variability
Relations between time scales: Dynamic systems theory

Macro level
Y1    Y2    Yk

Micro level
X1.....Xi  X1.....Xi  X1.....Xi  X1.....Xi

Circular causality

Development

Attractors/stabilization

moment to moment, real time
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Relations between perceptions

Improvement 4

More studies on the relation between interpersonal perceptions of different participants in interaction:

Interpersonal sensitivity

Complementarity

Control: reciprocity (oppositeness)
Affiliation: correspondence (sameness)
Interpersonal behavior during lessons
Time-series Analysis - Complementarity
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Instrumentation

Improvement 5

• Develop short, valid version for research aims

• CIRCE
QTI-77
Dutch version

One student, per class

RMSEA=.13
GFI=.96
QTI-24
Dutch version

One student, per class

RMSEA=.06
GFI=.99
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- Questions?

- Points of discussion?

- Other suggestions for improvement?