

Emotional states of participants
of mass political movements in
the context of friendly
relationships

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Social context

- Mass political movements in the end of the year of 2004 became a resonant event in the life of Ukrainian society.
- According to sociological data almost every fifth adult Ukrainian himself took part in mass-meetings and demonstrations, that comes to 5 million people (I.Bekeshkina, 2005).
- The most demensioned mass movement was Maydan (The political movement on the Square of Independence in Kyiv in the period from the 22-nd of November, 2004 to the 8 th of December, 2004).
- In the other cities of Ukraine mass manifestations of active support of both candidates V. Yuschenko and V. Yanukovich took place (especially in Donetsk on the 15-17th of January, 2005)

Problem

- The comprehension of emotional state for identification of the risk of uncontrolled spontaneous behaviour of mass.
- The influence of interpersonal relations of the participants of mass manifestations on their emotional state during the event.

Theoretical background

- Mass psychology
- Emotional states
- Friendly relationships

Mass psychology

- An expressive crowd is a mass which uniformly expresses this or that emotion; the spectrum of emotional dominants is very wide (A.P. Nazaretian, 2003).
- The most dangerous will be an active (panic or aggressive) crowd which is formed under the influence of superstrong emotions (V.V.Risun, 2003).
- In a crowd the process of weakening of people takes place, as well as the loss of roles and the relationships destructions (Le Bon,).
- A crowd can exist due to the mechanisms of mutual infection, winnowing and inheritance which are combined in the form of emotional spin (D.V.Olshansky, 2001).

Emotional states

- Emotions, in the wide sense, are a specific form of human interaction with the visual environment, aiming to cognize this environment and one's own place in it through oneself in the form of emotional experience. Emotions reflect the state of a subject in his interaction with an object (V.O.Tatenko, 1995).
- A psychic state is an integral characteristic of psychological activity for the specific period of time which shows the peculiarity of psychic processes passing independently from the reflected real events and phenomena, the previous state and person's psychological peculiarities (M.D. Levitov, 1955).
- Emotions are a product of both our physical state as well as our cognitive estimation of this state (Zilman, 1983).
- The theory of differential emotions extracts nine major modelities of human emotions (K.Izard, 1980).

Friendly relationships

- Friendship plays an important part in the life of a person and is a significant component of a person's integration with other people.
- Friendship is a moral feeling as well as a specific kind of relations between people which are based on the mutual favour, the spiritual proximity, the commonness of interests (I.Kon, 1989).
- The realization of interests and structuring of a large mass into smaller unions bring a good organization into a crowd (Makdugall, 1920).

Investigation scheme

- Participants of the mass movements were proposed a method of self-estimation for their emotional states during the action.
- The investigation was held in Kyiv within the period from the 22-nd of November to the 4-th of December in the regime of monitoring (12 gaugings with the interval of 1-1,5 days) and in Donetsk from the 15-th of January to the 17-th of January (3 gaugings with the interval of 1 day).
- The investigation was based on the volunteer principles and held by a group of professional psychologists from The Institute of social and political psychology jointly with The Institute of reflexive investigations and specialization as well as a number of higher educational facilities in Kyiv.

The method of self-estimation of the modality of emotional state included 30 items

- the major modalities according to K.Izard:
Interest, Elation, Astonishment;
Shame, Ire, Suffering, Disgust, Disrespect, Fear;
- the emotional states deriving from the compound feelings:
Pride, Dignity, Love, Inspiration, Indignation,
Belief, Envy, Excitement, Humiliation, Oppression, Despair, Guilt;
- other psychological states:
Strength, Unity, Excitement, Deliberateness, Tranquillity etc.

Characteristic of the excerpt

Maydan in Kyiv – 915 respondents

- Women – 41%, men – 59%
- Age from 16 to 78 years old (the average 32 years old)

■ Social structures:

Students – 23%

Officials – 17%

Workers – 10%

Entrepreneurs – 10%

Services sector – 3%

Pensioners – 3%

Unemployed people – 2%

Others (to 1%) together – 28%

Teachers and lecturers – 4%

Characteristic of the excerpt

Maydan in Donetsk – 103 respondents

- Women - 41%, men – 59%
- Age from 16 to 76 years old (the average 36 years old)

■ Social structures :

Students – 15%

Officials – 24%

Workers – 16%

Entrepreneurs – 8%

Teachers and lecturers – 5%

Services sector – 7%

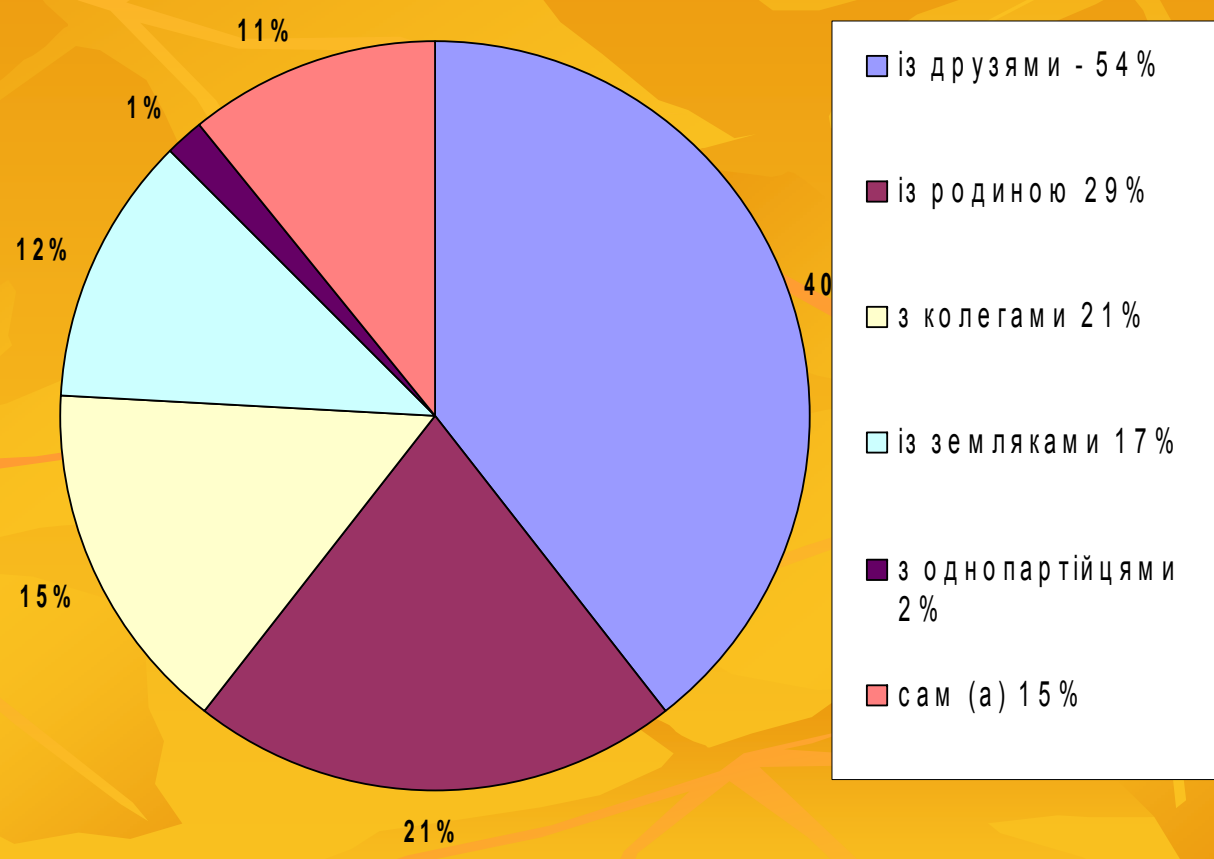
Pensioners – 8%

Unemployed people – 1%

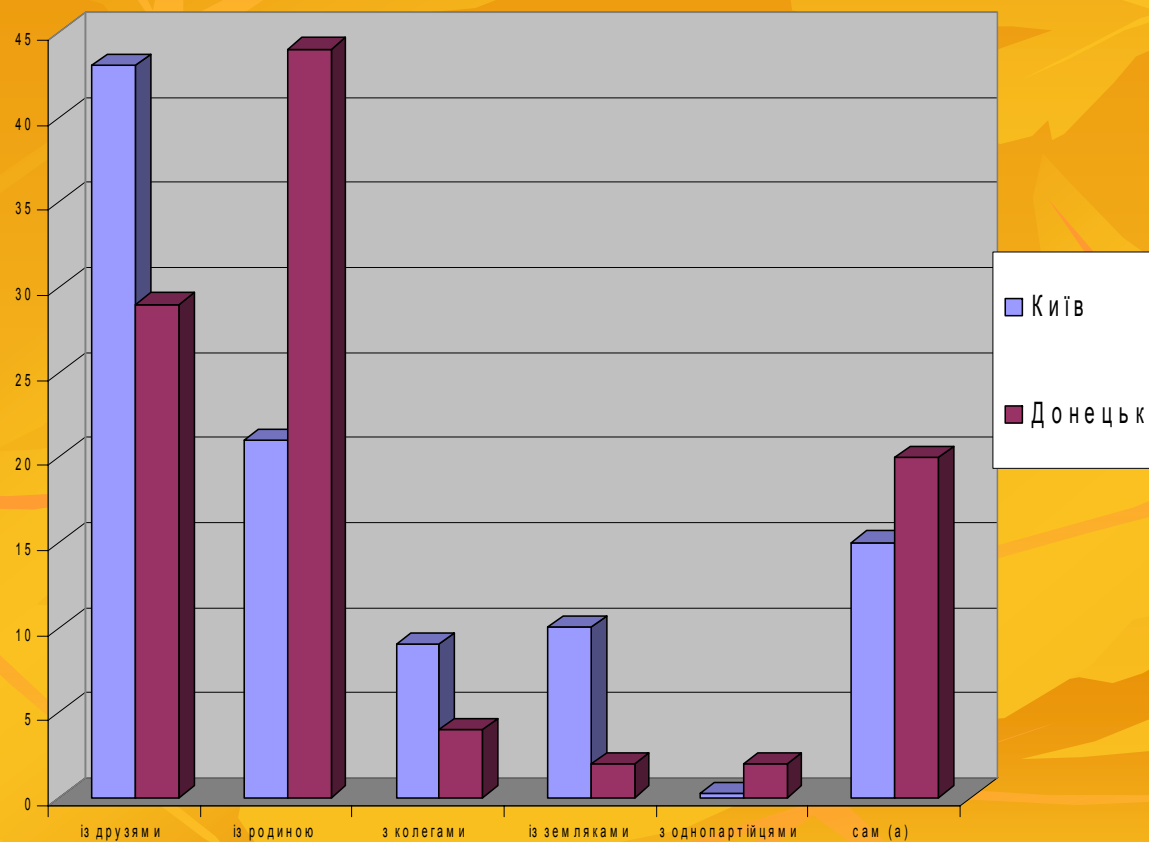
Housewives – 6%

Others – 8%

Structure of Maydan in Kyiv according to participants' inclusion into interpersonal relations (Whom have you come to the manifestation with?)



Comparison of the participants in Kyiv and Donetsk movements (Whom have you come to the manifestation with?)



Principles of the comparison of emotional states “friends” and “others”

- For the comparison the questionnaires of those participants who gave only one category for the question “Whom have you come to the manifestation with?” were analyzed (N=750), among them in Kyiv – 663 and in Donetsk – 87.
- Two excerpts were compared: “friends” (N=309) and all the other categories (N=441).
- The spin with an emotional state was estimated as a frequency of participants’ identification of each of emotional state categories connected with one or another emotional state.

Results

- Comparison of the major modalities of emotional states.
- Comparison of the other states, which are different on the statistic level of significance.

Comparison of emotional states

The major modalities

Emotion. states	“others”	“friends”
Interest*	11	21
Joy	42	39
Astonishment	5	6
Shame	5	7
Ire * *	8	5
Suffering * *	5	2
Disrespect	3	4
Disgust	2	1
Fear	1	1

Comparison of emotional states

Significant differences

Emotion. states	“Others”	“Friends”
Belief*	58	68
Strength**	32	39
Interest*	11	21
Ire**	8	5
Humiliation**	5	2
Suffering**	5	2

Conclusions

- Those participants who took part in the mass political movement together with their friends have the differences in emotional states which decrease the risk of development of uncontrolled crowd spanned with negative emotions (panic, aggressive).
- The context of friendly relationships has the influence on participants' more extensive inclusion into the emotional spin of positive states.
- The extracted group of the emotional states the spanning with which is assisted by the context of friendly relationships includes: belief, strength, interest.
- The extracted group of the emotional states the development of which is not assisted by the context of friendly relationships includes: ire, humiliation, suffering.
- Organizers have to promote the preservation of the context of friendly relationships among the participants of mass movements.

Perspectives of investigation

- To study the emotional states of the participants who take part in mass movements together with their friends.
- To investigate the changes in the representation of emotional states which participants obtained after mass actions have finished.
- To study the potential of friendly relationships as a resource of confrontation to negative consequences of individual's depersonalization in a mass.

Thanks for your attention

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