

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Study of the relationship between perceived maternal parenting and self-conscious affects

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ABSTRACT

Aim of the study

This study aims to explore the effects of perceived maternal parenting, thought to play a crucial role in the development of a child's personality, on self-conscious affects.

Material and Methods

We selected for analysis the four affects ("guilt-proneness", "shame-proneness", "externalization", and "detachment") that derive from negative evaluations of the given scenarios in Test of Self-Conscious Affect-3 (TOSCA-3). We used the Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI) for assessing perceived maternal parenting. A structural equation model was employed as a statistical technique. The 292 Japanese University students who completed every item of the TOSCA-3 and the PBI were included in our analysis.

Results

We found that only maternal "indifference/rejection" intensified the tendency towards "shame-proneness", where maternal "overprotection" intensified the tendency towards "externalization" and "detachment". On the other hand, maternal "care" and "allowance of autonomy/independence" did not have an impact on any of the affects.

Conclusions

Some maternal parenting styles, such as indifference/rejection and overprotection, play a part in one's proneness to self-conscious affects like shame-proneness, externalization and detachment.

Keywords: Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI), Test of Self-Conscious Affect-3 (TOSCA-3), child development, perceived maternal parenting, self-conscious affects, maternal indifference/rejection, maternal overprotection

INTRODUCTION

People are thought to experience particular affects as a result of prior cognitive processing of external stimuli. These affects and cognitive processes influence their attitudes towards their interpersonal relationships, which in turn influence their cognition and affects. However, the cognitive and affective patterns which make up a

significant part of an individual's personality do not seem to change significantly after reaching adulthood, except in cases where an individual experiences an event that subverts their beliefs and the views they previously held. When considering factors that determine proneness to particular affects or cognitions, the variety of one's experiences should be taken into account. Among these, the individual's relationship with his or her mother while an infant could be one of the most important.

The Test of Self-Conscious Affect (TOSCA)¹ is a scenario-based inventory developed by Tangney and her colleagues. TOSCA was revised twice and was superseded by Test of Self-Conscious Affect-3 (TOSCA-3).² Both versions are used in studies that assess how respondents feel based on their negative interpretations towards given scenarios. Most studies that have adopted TOSCA and TOSCA-3 have explored the relationship between proneness to particular affects and psychological maladjustment.^{1,3,4} Few studies, however, have examined the factors that influence an individual's proneness to particular affects and cognitions.

The four affects assessed by the TOSCA and TOSCA-3 could be experienced by a respondent not only in given situations in the questionnaire but also on a daily basis. It is also probable that the individual experienced these affects early in life in the context of the mother-child relationship. Because maternal parenting is understood to be one of the most crucial factors influencing the formation of an individual's personality, the affects and cognitions experienced at this age, which are the vital constituents of personality, undoubtedly play a significant role in this formative process. In this study, we aimed to explore how early maternal parenting influences affects that are later experienced in conflictive interpersonal relationships. To assess maternal parenting, we adopted the Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI).⁵

The PBI⁵ was originally designed as a two-factor instrument. A confirmatory factor analysis using a Japanese population supported its four-factor structure.⁶ Uji and Kitamura (2008)⁷ discussed the relationship between the four-factor structure and Japanese culture in the context of psychodynamic theories. These four factors were tagged as "care", "indifference/rejection", "allowance of autonomy/

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