FACIAL ASYMMETRY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR TRAITS (EXTRAVERSION/INTROVERSION AND NEUROTICISM)

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The face plays a crucial role in human social cognition. Facial expressions are important signals of internal states – emotions and intentions. Humans also see in the face signals of internal qualities that are more stable over time, like attractiveness as a mate or dominance, etc. The belief that the face reveals information about underlying character cuts across national, cultural and geographical boundaries. Widespread interest in physiognomy – the study of the face and its relationship to human ability, potential and character – peaked at the end of the eighteenth century when a physician and pastor named Johann Kaspar Lavater produced a formal classification system and set of rules specifying the relationship between the face and the mind. Among contemporary applications of face analysis not only psychological interpretations are accomplished, but also medical results are obtained. For example, more than 700 genetic issues influencing facial structure and facial features are known, and special software for disease identification from face had been developed.

The aim of the current research was to evaluate relationships between facial asymmetry and extraversion/introversion and neuroticism (two axis of human temperament) in a sample of Ukrainian people. The expression of extraversion/introversion was measured in points: >19 – a bright extrovert, >15 – an extrovert, 12 – the average value, <9 – an introvert, <5 – deep introvert. The expression of neuroticism was measured in the same way: >19 – very high level of a neuroticism, >14 – high level of neuroticism, 9 to 13 – the average value, <7 – low neuroticism. Among males and females the mean levels of an extraversion were 13.2 and 13.6 and the mean levels of a neuroticism were 13.4 and 13.8.

It was shown, that only in males one statistically significant correlation coefficient was found. Particularly, r between neuroticism and ratio of a measurement difference between the wings of the nose of the right and the left side related to a face midline to the measurement of the wings of the nose of the right side related to a face midline ($r = –0.50$, $p<0.05$). So, in this context, facial asymmetry is not of medical importance and does not reflect a negative trend for to some extent clinically significant neuroticism.