

REVISION DE LIBROS

Commissioned Reviews of 250 Psychological Tests (Vols. 1 and 2)

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If the level of a science should be judged by the development of its measurement, Psychology should be without any doubt one of the most advanced sciences. We can see this rapid growth in the impressive expansion of new psychometric methods and in the unfolding of new scales, questionnaires and tests. Usually the contribution of a new psychological theory implies one or more new scales to measure new constructs.

We can not overestimate the importance of these measurement instruments in the contrast of psychological theories or in the practices of professional assessment and intervention. The tests, scales and questionnaires make psychological ideas operative and connect the deep world of speculative thinking with the empirical world of facts. A theory without measures is only philosophy, but, in fact, a psychological measurement instrument with the help of some data may contribute seriously to the development of a psychological theory. Tests, questionnaires and scales define an important part of psychological facts.

The close connection between the development of Psychology and the development of the measurement instruments can be seen in the increasing number of tests, scales and questionnaires devoted to the measurement of new variables in all areas of Psychology. In most of these areas, actualized and accurate research and professional practice is unthinkable without taking into account the flow of new instruments. Frequently professionals, academics and students know the most classic instruments very well, but unfortunately, the access to new contributions, spread by hundreds of journals and other sources, is difficult. Therefore, a comprehensive review of the main contributions of research on new measurements is essential.

«Commissioned Reviews of 250 Psychological Tests» is a two-volume comprehensive collection of more than 300 reviews of tests, scales and questionnaires published in research from the nineties and classified in seven general areas.

As Michael W. Eysenck said in the preface of the first volume, «it is probable that most researchers are less likely to be aware of recent psychological tests than of well-established tests, and so the book provides a valuable resource for all researchers who find that their congested professional lives preclude perusing the current literature as fully as they would like to do». The two-volume book provides a thorough overview of psychological tests developed during the 1990's, including many new measurement instruments found in the research journals but not available in a commercially

published form. It is designed as a reference for researchers and professionals in school, counseling, clinical, social and organizational psychology.

Each chapter contains the reviews of a selection of measurement instruments within the corresponding area. The following information is provided for each test: the test title and acronym, authors, variable or variables measured, description of the instrument, purposes, contents and items description, sample or samples in which the instrument has been validated, reliability studies, validity studies, location of the instrument, observations or additional comments, references and reviewer, including their address. In most cases the reader will find the address of the test author.

Review of Commissioned Reviews of 250 Psychological Tests (Volume 1):

Volume one includes three chapters: 1) Health Psychology: attitudes, behaviors and experiences, 2) Cognitive Psychology: Cognitions, Coping and Ability and 3) Personality and Individual Differences.

In Chapter one, 47 tests, scales and questionnaires related to *health psychology* are selected for presentation. The topics covered in this area can be classified in nine main subareas. In some cases more than one scale or questionnaire is described for a specific topic. These are the nine subareas and the topics included:

Substance use and abuse: Use of alcohol and implication in therapy, self-efficacy for avoiding drinking, readiness to change harmful drinking behavior, beliefs about medicines, substance misuse and injecting risk.

Food disorders: Symptoms of eating disorders, food choice, emotional eating, and attitudes towards chocolate.

Sports attitudes and experiences: Athlete satisfaction and feelings and thoughts during running and aerobic activity.

Body care experiences, attitudes and behaviors: Attention to body shape, body attitude, body investment, body consciousness and anxiety experienced when one's body is perceived to be evaluated by others.

Physical exercise: Behavioral regulation in exercise, physical activity experience (flow), exercise motivation, lifetime total physical activity and physical activity for the elderly.

Health experience and attitudes: General health status, mental and physical health, lifestyle appraisal and stress reduction.

Sex: Female sexual activity and sexual satisfaction and sexual dysfunction among heterosexual couples.

Physical diseases experiences and attitudes: Coping with health injuries and problems, pain beliefs and perceptions, breast cancer and hereditary knowledge, cognitions in infertility, infertility distress and attributions for common somatic symptoms.

Mental and psychological diseases: Knowledge about epilepsy, panic disorder and symptoms and agoraphobia.

Patient reactions to treatments: Patient satisfaction with doctors, perceived quality of care from the patient's perspective, acceptability of psychological treatments and acceptability of psychological and pharmacological treatments for late life depression.

In volume one, the second chapter is devoted to the scales classified as *cognitive psychology*. Thirty-five tests and scales are described. The scope of the variables measured in this area is heterogeneous and difficult to classify in clear subareas. Among them can be found: cognitive flexibility, cognitive style, goals, choices and responsibility, coping strategies and coping styles, defense styles and mechanisms, dimensions of coping behaviors, strategies to cope with homesickness, coping styles or tendencies in current or past romantic relationships that cause stress, coping strategies for the prodromes of mania, appraisal of live events and problems, coping and satisfaction with activities of daily living, hostile automatic thoughts, automatic positive self-statements, personal hopefulness for the immediate future, internal, personal and situational attributions, perceived stress and coping, aggressive, prosocial and withdrawal problem-solving strategies, state level of the goal-direction cognition, hope state and trait, fear of fear and agoraphobic cognitions, impaired self-awareness for persons with traumatic brain injury, pathological and non-pathological dissociative experience and symptoms, task orientation and ego orientation in the perception of success in sports, self-referential goal-directed thinking in children, concern about everyday memory in elderly, belief in good luck, moral cognitions, forgiveness of others, forgiveness of self, visual and kinaesthetic imagery ability, use of imagery by athletes, exercise imagery, reminiscence functions, concentration of attention, vigilance and emotive aspects of risk taking while operating a motor vehicle.

The third and last chapter of volume 1 is concerned with tests on the psychology of the personality and individual differences. 68 tests and questionnaires are included in the chapter. The specific topics measured by the scales, tests and questionnaires included in this area are difficult to classify due to the close relationship among the topics on personality. In a broad way, these specific topics can be reordered in the following four general subareas: traits and styles of the personality, social aspects of the personality, personality disorders and specific topics related to religious tendencies.

Traits and styles of the personality: Factors and traits of personality (several tests and scales), temperament, «the big five», emotional intelligence, neuroticism, extroversion, openness to experience, perfectionism, motivational style, Jung's psychological types, adult attachment patterns, self-actualization of potential, susceptibility to hypnosis, noise sensitivity, free will or determinism beliefs, folk-concepts of personality which possess broad personal and social relevance, life values, voluntary simplicity life-style, state sport confidence.

Social aspects of the personality: Social behavior and social status, fundamental interpersonal relations orientation-behavior, interpersonal trust, interpersonal competitiveness in everyday contexts (index of competitiveness), receptiveness to dissimilar others (diversity of life experience), sociopathy and autonomy, kindness, level of self-disclosure, concealment, interpersonal guilt, machiavellism, sensitivity to criticism, susceptibility to embarrassment, loneliness, preference for solitude and sexual boredom.

Personality disorders and related topics: Personality disorders (several questionnaires), personality deviance, nonadaptive personality, schizotypal personality, schizotypy traits, exposure to vio-

lence and trauma, guilt, aggression, antisocial personality, coping for stressful situations, life-history of aggression, disposition to become angry while driving, anger reaction to provocations, school anger for males, disgust sensitivity and self-serving cognitive distortion.

Religious topics: religious orientation, attitude towards Christianity, internal and external religious coping cognitions and behaviors.

Review of Commissioned Reviews of 250 Psychological Tests (Volume 2):

Volume two contains chapters four to seven. This volume is devoted to 4) Social psychology: attitudes, beliefs and interpersonal relationships, 5) Psychological well-being, 6) Developmental psychology: childhood, families, adulthood and aging, and 7) Work and educational psychology.

Chapter 4 is devoted to social psychology: attitudes, beliefs and interpersonal relationships, and presents 26 reviews.

A first group of reviewed questionnaires are related with gender, couple and family relationships. These questionnaires measure the following variables: couples' critical incidents, attitudes toward sexuality, gender role trait adscriptions as an aspect of self-concept, gender identity, gender role journey, commitment in married couples, gender identity, femininity, masculinity, phases of men's and woman's gender role journeys and family allocentrism-idiocentrism (individual's connectedness to his or her family).

A second group of questionnaires are related with self-image and expression, including measures of emotional expressivity, conversational experience, self-differentiation, independent/interdependent self-image, individual's identification with a sport team and body image preoccupation.

The main group of questionnaires are related with several dimensions of social relationships. These instruments measure variables like central relationship patterns, types of social support, individualistic and collective dimensions, sense of community, interpersonal commitment, informal peer groups in adolescence, tendency to betray interpersonal relationships, tendency to join and maintain memberships in diverse groups, beliefs in a just world, life values for decisions regarding work, education, relationships and leisure, symbolic racism, social life with neighborhoods, intrapersonal-empowerment, social climate in informal adolescent peer groups and attitudes and knowledge about mental retardation.

Chapter 5 is devoted to *psychological well-being* and covers 47 measurement instruments.

Some of the questionnaires in this chapter are concerned with general psychological constructs related to the social *aspects of the personality*. This chapter reviews scales in this area about self-concept, self-esteem, self-harm, role functioning, general behavior and symptom identification, interpersonal styles, codependency and constructed meaning related to the coping process. Nevertheless the majority of the reviewed scales are more closely concerned with psychopathological manifestations.

Many of the scales and questionnaires cover the main area of *anxiety*. Questionnaires in this area measure anxiety and traits of anxiety, health anxiety, anxious arousal, stress/tension, mood, states of anxiety and , general distress, affective, behavioral and cognitive distress manifestations, worry and anxiety, micro and macro worries, pathological worry, non-pathological worry domains and shame and guilt proneness.

Some *pathological manifestations related to anxiety* are also covered, including panic disorder, panic and phobia related to agoraphobic situations, social-phobic situations and interoceptive-sensations, fear of anxiety, fear of pain, catastrophic thinking associated with pain, anxious thoughts, and catastrophic cognitions.

The area of *depression* is also treated, reviewing scales oriented to measure depression, depression/happiness, depressed mood, death depression and anhedonic depression.

Other *more severe disorders* are also covered: maniac-depressive symptoms, acute confusion, delirium, paranoid ideation and behavior, death obsession, obsessive compulsive traits, suspiciousness, and dissociative experiences.

The mental-well being and quality of life, especially for persons suffering from different pathologies, are also represented. We can find the review of scales oriented to measure mental well-being, quality of life, quality of life of people with mental illness, quality of life of people with a life-threatening illness, quality of life in depression and social adjustment for the severely mentally ill.

Finally, chapter 5 covers some scales and questionnaires related to clinical pathologies and difficulties in *childhood*, among them childhood depression, children's post-traumatic symptoms, diagnostic for incest survivors and children's social phobia and anxiety.

Chapter 6 is devoted to developmental psychology: childhood, families, adulthood and aging and reviews 37 scales and questionnaires.

Children characteristics and behaviors are measured by this first grouping of the questionnaires reviewed, including: children's aggressive, withdrawn and prosocial behavior with peers, children's perceptions of friendship processes and satisfaction, social and academic competence, mental disorders of young children, children's psychiatric syndromes, subclassification of children with autism, physical aggression, hyperactivity, inattention, opposition, anxiety and prosociality, social competence, prosocial orientation and social initiative, children's eating attitudes, child and therapist positive and negative behaviors in child therapy, preschool children's social and nonsocial play behaviors and temperament of newborn children.

A second group of the reviewed questionnaires measures variables related with adolescent development: adolescent symptomatology and adjustment difficulties, adolescent home and school situations, social and academic competence, adolescent self-image, victimization, aggressiveness, behavior problems, home experiences and anti social attitudes, moral judgement development, attributed level of influence to five sources of moral authority, sociability, social desirability, self-perception, ideal public self, self-description, ideal private self and communication of events.

In a third group we find many questionnaires measuring variables related with adulthood, family and parental behavior. The reviewed questionnaires measures variables like adult attachment, attachment style, factors in attachment and object relations, experienced phenomena in the bereaved, family functioning, family attitudes and behaviors, family satisfaction, empowerment in families, premarital personal and relationship evaluation, comprehensive premarital assessment of individual and couple traits predictive of marital satisfaction, maternal and paternal antenatal attachment, knowledge of pregnant serum screening, attachment between the mother or father and the infant under the age of 1 year, marital satisfaction and commitment, marital intimacy, parental knowledge of parenting skills, parental satisfaction with a community child and adolescent mental health services; stress and positive and negative aspects associated with raising children.

Chapter 7 includes reviews of work and educational psychology. It contains 44 reviews about questionnaires devoted to the measuring of the following four areas: learning and education, aptitudes, work processes and work health and safety.

The first group includes questionnaires devoted to the measure of the following variables: learning processes and associated motives and intentions, motivation and learning strategies, inclination and ability to engage in self-directed learning, attitudes toward career counseling, dysfunctional thoughts in career problem solving and decision making, career decidedness, indecision, learning environment in educational settings, students' domain specific optimism for medium-term goals, children's beliefs about their ability to cope with school situations, students' attitudes toward statistics, student's evaluations of teaching quality, teacher beliefs in early childhood education, teachers' perceptions of their offers of help being rejected by their peers and/or students, communication ease for deaf students, bullying and victimization in schools and adolescent problems in several areas.

A second group is comprised of some questionnaires related to the measure of aptitudes: clerical worker aptitude (numerical ability, verbal comprehension, working memory), technician aptitudes (numerical ability, verbal comprehension, spatial ability, visualization ability and error checking), fill-in concept maps measuring connected understanding of discipline concepts, self-efficacy regarding research, learning, proving and avoiding dimensions of work domain goal orientation, computer expertise, and reading, arithmetic and writing skills in children.

Some of the questionnaires concern different aspects of organizational functioning. Two themes are mainly included: ethics and power. Related to ethics we can find questionnaires measuring: ethical climate in work settings, ethical autonomy (political, working life and business), ethics environment at work, perceived occupational discrimination against Black Americans and perceived occupational opportunity for Black Americans. Power and relationships with superiors is another well represented area. The variables measured by the reviewed questionnaires include: formal and informal power in organizations, employees' perceptions of career management practices, attitudes toward compliance with inappropriate requests from superiors, perceived level of worker empowerment and causal attributions for occupational outcomes. In this group of the organizational area questionnaires measuring several variables can be considered: hospital social work self-efficacy, nursing encouragement and control techniques used to care for elderly subjects with symptom distress in an institutional setting and impact of information technology on work.

Finally, some of the reviewed questionnaires concern aspects of health and safety at work: work and team safety attitudes, safety climate within a work group or division, safety climate in organizations, supervisors and middle management safety response, co-workers and team work safety response, worker safety behavior, base risk, real risk, physical work load during work, combined load of paid work and unpaid duties, work related tension, facets of job ambiguity and work addition risk.

Conclusion

The selection of recent tests published or validated in the last decade and the international nature of the contributions are two strong points of the book. In fact, the book includes contributions from more than 250 psychologists from more than 20 countries. The ra-

tionale for choosing this particular collection of instruments is not clearly specified, except to say that these instruments were published in the nineties. There is no other comprehensive review of tests and questionnaires of such breath published in that time. The wide range of measurement instruments considered represents a cross-section of subject ages, settings and psychological purposes.

The editors have managed to persuade many measurement instrument developers to prepare most of the reviews. Authors self-reviewing their own instruments are well acquainted to communicate the latest developments and results with regard to these generally recent instruments. Knowledge about psychometric properties and validation results are granted. Nevertheless a possible limitation of some test reviewers is the failure to mention a broader list of references about their use and research. On the contrary, the reader may expect an independent and critical review of the instruments that in some cases would be a recommended complement.

As in most edited books, some variation in degree of depth and detail of information can be found, but the editors have made a strong effort to assure that the common structure of the reviews allows the reader to comprehend the central information in all of the areas. The references and the addresses of the authors provide the opportunity of a more sound study of each scale.

In a book of this nature, covering such a vast range of psychological areas, establishing a classification of the contributions based on their content is important for the reader who is interested in easily find what has been published on certain subject. Probably some of the contributions can be placed in different chapters and introducing a subclassification within each chapter becomes hard to decide. Editors introduce only a very general classification in seven broad coverage chapters, several of them mixing well established psychological areas (for example, chapter 7 includes both work psychology and educational psychology). Inside each chapter contributions are disposed by alphabetical order. The «author of tests index» and the «subject and test index», at the end of the second volume, help the reader, partially palliating these difficulties.

This important two-volume book may be considered a necessary complement of the Mental Measurement Yearbook series (Kramer & Conoley, 1992), the Test Critiques series (Keyser & Sweetland, 1994) and the Test in Print series (Murphy, Conoley & Impara, 1994) and others (Newmark, 1989)

As Michael W. Eysenck says in the preface «It often seems to me that the acid test of a book is whether you personally would find it valuable to have it on the shelves so that you could refer to it at frequent intervals. This book triumphantly satisfies that criterion so far as I am concerned, and I am very confident that it will do the same for all those who read this book.»

In my opinion this two volume book is a must for all the libraries of the schools and departments of psychology and a necessary guide to choose the most recent measurement instruments.

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Trabajo, política e ideología en una cuenca minera

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El libro del profesor Sánchez Fernández describe la vida de una sociedad singular española con un enfoque claramente antropológico que resulta muy interesante tanto para los científicos sociales, por la forma de abordar el tema y los contenidos que en él se van presentando, como para aquellos que estén interesados en el transcurrir de la vida social en una zona singular española como es la cuenca minera del Caudal.

Dos aspectos diferentes, entre otros, pueden considerarse a la hora de reflexionar sobre esta obra en este contexto. Por un lado, aquellos que se refieren al interés que los psicólogos, especialmente los psicólogos sociales, podrían tener en un texto como éste, lleno de sugerencias para investigar sobre la vida cotidiana del ciudadano medio español. Igualmente, parece necesario en un trabajo de estas características destacar algunas cuestiones formales, metodológicas o de contenido que pueden ser relevantes cuando la obra se lee desde otras disciplinas.

Puede decirse, en una primera aproximación al trabajo en su conjunto, que éste merece una evaluación general altamente positiva, tanto por sus contenidos como por su estructura. Los contenidos que se van desgranando a lo largo del libro hacen pensar que se puede convertir en un clásico para entender el ambiente que estudia, en la medida que trata de una forma monográfica y exhaustiva la vida social al final del siglo XX en una cuenca minera española. Y no sólo resulta interesante por el hecho de narrar una historia local, sino que el marco en el que se encuadra –Principado de Asturias y España– le hace extensible el interés a otras cuencas mineras de la geografía española.

Los capítulos en los que se estructura el libro están contruidos de tal manera que el lector puede aproximarse a cada uno de ellos de forma independiente, ya que el contexto de cada tema tratado queda suficientemente recogido en su capítulo correspondiente. Por ejemplo, si a alguien le interesa la vida política de la zona puede encontrar en el capítulo correspondiente el discurso referido a este tema suficientemente contextualizado como para no ser necesario recurrir a otros capítulos para conocer las claves de los asuntos políticos en la zona. Esto no quiere decir que la obra no sea una pieza en su conjunto, porque esto sería faltar a su sentido más profundo, pero la estructuración y planteamiento de cada capítulo re-

sulta una monografía de cada tema sobre la vida en la cuenca del Caudal.

La descripción de una sociedad compleja como la que se hace en el libro requiere un trabajo minucioso y prolongado en el tiempo como el que ha realizado el profesor Sánchez Fernández en esta obra. Cuando uno lee detenidamente el texto se va dando cuenta del esfuerzo y la dedicación que han sido necesarios para realizar este volumen. La multitud de datos organizados que aparecen a lo largo de las páginas avalan el trabajo realizado, para ello ha sido necesario recurrir a una gran variedad de fuentes documentales, así como a técnicas cualitativas y de observación. Para poder llevar a cabo esta obra han sido necesarios cinco años de trabajo de campo desde 1993 a 1998, tal y como dice el autor. Gran parte de este esfuerzo ha sido sutilmente escondido, de tal manera que uno puede leer el libro de forma fluida sin ser abrumado por cuestiones metodológicas o técnicas que podrían complicar el texto de tal manera que fuera difícil separar lo meramente anecdótico de los aspectos sustanciales. Esto no quiere decir que la metodología no sea importante a la hora de formalizar un texto como éste, pero ella lo es, en la medida en que se hace necesaria para entender el discurso planteado en los resultados y no para abrumar con un aparato de artificios, que tan sólo pone en evidencia en muchos casos el vacío de los resultados presentados.

Aunque el autor en el prólogo dice «se ha procurado hacer un análisis “microsocial” o minucioso y en profundidad sobre los temas abordados, rehuyendo las generalidades y vaguedades que a veces raya en tópicos» (p. X). Esto lo cumple sólo en parte, ya que si bien es cierto que las descripciones son pormenorizadas y los análisis que hace de la cotidianidad son de gran calado; sin embargo, no puede huir de los tópicos en la medida en que narra con detalle la vida cotidiana de un grupo social cuyo discurso en muchos aspectos no se aleja del compartido por la mayoría de los españoles. Pero esto no parece un desmérito, sino todo lo contrario, ya que permite al lector, incluso el ajeno a la vida de la sociedad que se describe, identificarse con muchas de las descripciones de las que se dan cuenta y coincidir o discrepar con análisis de la sociedad con las que ha vivido uno mismo.

La edición me parece cuidada, aunque quizá debería haberse explicitado en el prólogo algo más la metodología utilizada y alguna figura más general de la sección de un pozo minero, ya que muchos de los lectores e investigadores que se acerquen a este libro no tendrán experiencia con este sector productivo. También debería aparecer una anotación en el prólogo sobre la transcripción literal que se ha usado para fijar las expresiones de los informantes, indicando que se ha utilizado el dialecto que usaban los entrevistados. Asimismo, la nota que aparece al comienzo del capítulo «ideas y creencias» donde se dice que el análisis aplicado en este capítulo a la cuenca del Caudal es extensible en alguna medida al conjunto de la sociedad española, debería aparecer en el mismo prólogo haciendo extensible todo el libro en general, pues muchas de las descripciones y análisis que se hacen a lo largo del texto pueden ser extrapoladas o, al menos, vistas como pertenecientes a la sociedad española que habita ciudades de tamaño medio.

En los dos primeros capítulos se contextualiza la sociedad estudiada, tanto en su vertiente histórico-geográfica como en la organización del sistema productivo, centrado éste en el sector minero. En el primero se narra cómo ha ido desarrollándose la minería del carbón en la zona estudiada y su relación con la política y economía nacional desde el siglo XIX hasta el siglo XX, para ello ha recurrido a fuentes documentales ya existentes. En el segundo

capítulo se describe de forma resumida la estructura de la mina y la organización de los puestos de trabajo y sus tareas. Ambos capítulos son algo extensos para contextualizar el trabajo que posteriormente se desarrolla, ya que el lector probablemente se quiere centrar lo antes posible en los aspectos de las relaciones sociales del momento presente. Por ejemplo, se puede prescindir de algún apartado como el referido a las enfermedades profesionales de los mineros, no así del relacionado con los accidentes laborales que está salpicado de heurísticos que introducen al estudio de la «cultura de la seguridad» y de la percepción del riesgo (Pidgeon, 1994). Igualmente, la descripción que se hace de una mina resulta adecuada para el lego y probablemente escasa para el experto, pero incluso más resumida al igual que el desarrollo histórico, no desmerecería la obra y hubiese sido más ágil para el lector.

En el último apartado del segundo capítulo aparece lo que va a ser una constante a lo largo de los análisis que se hace en la obra de la sociedad de Mieres –y, posiblemente, por extensión a gran parte de la sociedad española– se presenta una sociedad en la que está escondida la solidaridad y aparece como característica el individualismo propio del capital salvaje, «en donde sólo manda el dinero» y «no ideales altruistas». El discurso sobre el que gira la sociedad estudiada es el dinero y el poder, ambos son los dinamizadores de la sociedad y en ese sentido el libro presenta una realidad valiente y denunciadora de la dosis cínica con que se rodea a los discursos del ámbito doméstico, sindical y político. En este sentido, el libro presenta un reflejo de lo que se expresa más allá de los lenguajes formalizados en cada uno de los dominios que trata. Este atrevimiento es el que le permite acercarse a una realidad social desde la que es más fácil proyectar una investigación más pormenorizada, o, por qué no decirlo, más psicosocial.

Cuando el libro entra de forma monográfica en los diferentes dominios de la vida cotidiana lo hace desde un planteamiento descriptivo, organizando lo que dice la gente de una forma sistemática y ordenada. Aquí vuelve a emerger la acción sindical con un discurso individualista y donde la solidaridad parece como si fuera de un tiempo pasado. Este aspecto merece una reflexión, porque de la lectura se podría extraer la conclusión de que hasta la llegada de la democracia el discurso sindical era de carácter colectivista y solidario y cuando ésta se logra en España se produce un discurso a favor de lo individual en contraposición a lo social. Probablemente, ambos discursos son propios de los dos momentos históricos, pero las metodologías utilizadas –documental y testimonio personal– en uno y otro momento, respectivamente, son el resultado de ver una cara u otra de una moneda que coexisten en todo momento. Aunque bien pudiera tener razón el profesor Sánchez Fernández al encontrar esa contraposición de discursos en los dos momentos históricos, ya que la democracia formal tiene un fundamento profundamente liberal, en tanto sitúa a la persona por encima de la sociedad. Se percibe una dura crítica al sindicalismo «real» al ser observado éste como una estrategia para el beneficio, preferentemente, personal.

El análisis de la sociedad más próxima al ciudadano de a pie es realizado en los capítulos referidos a la «estructura social» y a «las habladurías, redes y control social». En ellos se da una versión del discurrir día a día de esa sociedad que resulta ameno de leer y donde el lector va reconociendo ese lenguaje más íntimo y menos correctamente político que describe el discurrir de la vida cotidiana de una sociedad como la de la cuenca minera del Caudal; y, sin lugar a duda, extrapolable en gran medida a otras zonas españolas de características similares. En estos capítulos vuelve a ponerse de

manifiesto la importancia de lo individual frente a lo social y lo privado frente a lo público, tanto en el discurso personal como en el correspondiente a la familia.

Un sinfín de repertorios de conductas queda recogido en el libro y como ilustración en este momento se podrían destacar tres que atienden a niveles de análisis del comportamiento social muy diferente. La primera se refiere a los temas de conversación de los hombres y de las mujeres. El autor recoge con naturalidad lo que está en boca de muchos ciudadanos a propósito de lo que hablan unos y otras, y dice: «las mujeres casadas polarizan las habladurías en la moda, las ropas, tipo de peinado y maquillaje, el embellecimiento del cuerpo, la vivienda y decoración del hogar y los asuntos familiares. En cambio, los hombres casados localizan las habladurías más bien en el estado del tiempo, los deportes, las cuestiones laborales, políticas y sindicales y la conducta sexual.» (p. 164). Estas diferencias según el género en temas de conversación pueden ser un buen punto de partida para profundizar en los procesos de interacción que llevan a interesarse por realidades diferentes.

El segundo se refiere a un comportamiento colectivo en el que da cuenta de «una visita al cementerio civil de la villa donde se deposita un ramo de flores sobre la tumba de este líder –refiriéndose a Manuel Llaneza– y se vierten vigorosos discursos sindicales y políticos de orientación socialista. El acto finalizará con el canto de la “internacional”.» (p. 201). En un relato de un suceso como éste se observa con gran distancia; sin embargo, que la mayoría de las personas tienen experiencias de este tipo de situaciones en las que se movilizan numerosas energías. Los estudios de comportamiento colectivo desde una perspectiva psicosocial permiten establecer la relación entre la pauta del comportamiento descrito y las variables cognitivas emocionales y comportamentales de los actantes (Javaloy, 2001) y, por tanto, encontrar el eco de un tipo de investigación en el otro.

El tercer repertorio de conductas está relacionado con el valor de los ritos religiosos en la vida social. En el texto se recogen testimonios que llevan al autor a sintetizar cómo en la sociedad estu-

diada llega a reconocer «que si no se exteriorizan con una ceremonia religiosa pública los momentos críticos del ciclo de vida, como nacimiento, casamiento y muerte, dichos acontecimientos pasarían socialmente desapercibidos. Estos rituales convierten sucesos privados en fenómenos colectivos que involucran y vinculan al agente entre sí.» (p. 238). Una afirmación como ésta puede ser considerada obvia por lo asumida que se encuentra en nuestra cotidianeidad; sin embargo, puede no ser baladí, ya que invita a reflexionar sobre cuestiones tales como la dificultad que tiene la sociedad laica de sustituir el ritual religioso o cómo operan estos ritos de paso en los niveles de análisis del comportamiento.

El libro está jalonado por múltiples descripciones de la vida cotidiana, al igual que las tres descritas más arriba, expresadas en términos tales que el lector del mismo ámbito cultural, aun reconociéndolas como propias de su mundo, le pudieran parecer ajenas; lo que muestra el ejercicio auténtico de antropología que se realiza a lo largo de las páginas al despersonalizar la conducta y situarla en el marco de producción de la sociedad. El alejamiento de lo personal para tratar la conducta hace que un texto antropológico como éste sea tremendamente sugerente a los psicólogos, porque da cuenta de la vida cotidiana sobre la que la Psicología proyecta sus teorías, conceptos y variables.

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