

Abstract

The main topic of the dissertation thesis is the construct of emotional intelligence which can be defined via several theoretical models out of which the well known ones are presented step by step in the theoretical part of this work. The paper also explains the main difference between ability and trait emotional intelligence which represent two different ways, above all, for measuring the construct. The most well know tools are presented in one of the chapters too. The theoretical part of the dissertation largely elaborate on the topic of individual differences in emotional intelligence which were explored within the basic research of the construct. The purpose of the two separate studies which were conducted within the dissertation research project was to examine whether the groups of heterosexual and non-heterosexual respondents are statistically similar or different in both ability and trait emotional intelligence and in emotion regulation which is considered to be the upper component of emotional intelligence. Moreover, the first study focused on the replication of low correlation between ability and trait emotional intelligence and on the relation between ability emotional intelligence and cognitive intelligence. The relation between trait emotional intelligence and personality traits was analyzed in the second study. Another purpose was to replicate that women score higher in emotional intelligence compared to men. There were no significant differences in the mean scores of emotional intelligence and emotion regulation between heterosexuals and non-heterosexuals. Several hypothesis based on the past research were replicated. The studies are limited especially by nonprobability sampling and by the age homogeneity of respondents. Other limitations are discussed.

Key words: Emotional intelligence, emotion regulation, sexual orientation, gender