

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with experiencing emotions and emotional habituation. The aim of the work was to compare changes in subjectively felt intensity of emotional experience and physiological responses during repeated affective stimulation. In the theoretical part were presented the concepts of affective experience and emotional habituation, their biological basis and methods of investigation. The empirical part is devoted to an experiment in which sets of positive and negative picture (IAPS database) and sets of videos in different order were repeatedly presented to group of 124 people. During the presentation were observed changes in subjective evaluation of stimuli and in physiological responses (skin conductance, skin temperature). The habituation process has been tested with regard to the order of stimuli. The results demonstrated that habituation process were present at a subjective level. Also habituation process occurred for the physiological indicator, the skin temperature in the part of group that saw for the first stimulus set of positive videos. The habituation of skin conductance did not appear, on the contrary its values increase with a series of repetitions. There is some probability, that subjective and physiological habituation are independent to each other. Previous affective experience generally hardly affects emotional processes and habituation. A significant impact had the inclusion of positive videos at the beginning of the presentation, which caused a continuous increase in skin temperature values indicating a decrease in body arousal.

Key words: emotion, habituation, affective stimulation, subjective experience, physiologic responses