

Moral judgments about the other person are an extremely important factor in the shaping of social relations. Previous studies show that on the one hand moral judgments are to a large extent intuitive, and on the other hand indicate distortions of moral evaluations made by pre-school children. It turns out that children assess the behavior of the (un) moral character differently, depending on his group affiliation or the perpetrator's intentions. Among numerous studies on moral judgments about the behavior of another person made by children, there have so far been no studies to check how the involvement of self-interest affects the assessment of the behavior of an immoral character. This issue is significant because, firstly, studies involving adults show distortions of moral judgments under the influence of self-interest, and secondly, a strong egocentric attitude of pre-school children allows to assume that children will evaluate the immoral behavior differently in a situation when they will gain personal benefit from it. The main goal of the project is to verify the hypotheses concerning distortion of moral judgments of children in pre-school age under the influence of self-interest. Two preliminary tests carried out on a sample of 154 children showed a significant impact of self-interest on the degree of sympathy for the perpetrator and the level of trust in him, but not on the evaluation of immoral behavior alone.

The project assumes extending the research already carried out for another 4 experiments which will examine how withdrawal of a participant's direct involvement will affect the obtained results and verify whether the obtained effects will depend on the group's affiliation to the perpetrator and the person who has personal gain on immoral behavior.