Abstract

Conservatism and liberalism in American psychological research is mostly described as unidimensional scale which clearly divides ideology into two opposite ideological standpoints. However, current relevant studies show that unidimensional approach to study ideology is overly simplified. Linking ideological orientation and personal traits seem to bring about contradicting results. In a similar way, relevant psychological instruments for measuring conservatism seem to measure two relatively independent aspects of conservatism. It is apparent mostly from large population studies, that ideological orientation is more complex than it may appear. Specific agendas stemming from their respective ideological directions are for a large part of population relatively uncorrelated with their overall ideological self-identification. Multidimensional models of conservatism and liberalism using at least social and economic agenda therefore seem as a more useful way to describe political orientation for most of the population.

Empirical part of the study proposes a partial replication of two relevant studies to test a thesis of similar multidimensionality of the left-right ideological orientation scale in Czech population. This could at the same time provide a relevant American-Czech comparison.