

The attribution process is connected with searching for the causes of the behaviour of the other people or our own behaviour. The effort to interpret and understand the causes of manners of the other people is the human natural tendency, which enables not only to understand the world, but also find its meaning.

The attribution process proceeds mostly quite unwittingly and it is not simple. It is influenced, in particular, by lots of information and their veracity, by human ability to process information adequately, by individual's needs and interests and, of course, by individual's emotions.

As we have lack of information in the given moment and we need to make decision how to behave, we have to not only search for the causes of the events but also attribute them. Thus cognitive information elaboration vicariously influence our behaviour and our motivation, too.

However, a man attributes causes not only to the behaviour of the other people, but also to his own behaviour. It is a process, which precedes own behaviour outcome expectance and it is one of substantial components of cognitive motivation. The attribution process follows outcome (achievement or failure) and it is a part of evaluation.

In the first part of my dissertation I deal with theoretical questions of causal attributions - Weiner's attribution theory, causal schemata, attributional mistakes and phenomena like learned helplessness etc.

Further I focus on an achievement and a failure experience and on motivational and emotional consequences of causal attributions.

I present the Heckhausen's motivation model that is an extended and dynamic model of achievement behaviour.