ABSTRACT

The main objective of this thesis is to verify the relationship of the contextually specific motivation in sport to a global self-esteem and possible mediation effects of the physical self-perceptions in this relationship. To achieve this objective six individual studies were conducted.

First, we focused on the translation of diagnostic instruments: the Sport Motivation Scale (SMS; Pelletier et al., 1995) and the Social Physique Anxiety Scale (SPAS; Hart, Leary, Rejeski, 1989) into the Czech language. Next, the validity and reliability of the scores obtained by Czech versions of the instruments were examined. Based on the results of the structural equation modeling and using a known-difference evidence validity approach we concluded that both translated instruments may be useful as a valid and reliable diagnostic tools for measuring different kinds of motivation in sport (SMS) and negative physical self-perception (social physical anxiety – SPAS).

Using structural equation modeling, we also concluded that different types of motivation in sport (which vary in degree of relative autonomy of the subject) affect specific self-esteem associated with the body, as well as the evaluation of one’s self at the global level. Relationship of the sport motivation and the global self-esteem was largely mediated by individual's physical self-perceptions. The important thing is that even when controlling for effects of gender and mediation effects of the physical self-perceptions, a direct negative relationship between amotivation and the global self-esteem was observed. This fact points to a possible overlap of contextually specific type of motivation in sport in predicting outcome variables at a higher level of generality. The results are discussed within individual studies.

Keywords: intrinsic motivation, self-determination, global self-esteem, physical self, social physique anxiety, factor analysis, structural equation modeling