

Abstract:

This thesis describes some of the theories and research available in the field of leadership. It provides a brief summary of selected theories that have been researched in relation to personality characteristics (traits). In the historical introduction the thesis presents approaches and sources of the ideas about leadership, on which the newer theories are based. The main part of the thesis is focused on (1) trait theory and a link between the Big Five traits and leadership prediction, and (2) transformation approach to leadership and a link between the personality traits of transformation leaders measured using the Big Five. In the conclusion of the theoretical part some psychosocial aspects of leadership are described. The thesis also contains a draft of a research design that explores a connection between personality traits (Big Five) of leaders and the most common leadership types (transaction and transformation leadership).