

Abstract

This thesis describes an evolutionary theory of depression and related Rumination hypothesis. This hypothesis suggests that depression can have a positive effect on cognition and can lead to an analytical style of thinking that is useful for problem solving. To confirm the hypothesis, this thesis is using tasks focused on sequential decision making called secretary's problem. Thus, the work examines the hypothesis that depressed respondents perform better in the task than healthy respondents. Partial results of the whole study analyzed in this thesis show that the hypothesis could not be confirmed, which the author justifies in the debate and confronts these findings with the results of similar research.