



Mirror that knows Light', Measuring the Personality through TAT: A Case Study

KEYWORDS

Thematic Apperception Test (TAT), Assessing the Personality, Case Study.

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ABSTRACT

Mirror knows how to measure the intensity of light. The measurement of human personality has been so far a mountain-like task. Of late, psychologists claim that human personality, however it is enigmatic and mysterious, can be appraised through certain project methods. The researchers of Harvard Psychological Clinic have termed it as Thematic Apperception Test (TAT). The main objective of this article is to study the personality of a Subject by implementing this method. Our findings will reestablish the originality and effectiveness of this research method even in the sub-continent.

INTRODUCTION:

In our days Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) has been often regarded as one of the most constructive tools of measuring personality. Under the supervision of Henry Murray and Christiana Morgan, their colleagues inaugurated a searching analysis in proving the effectiveness of Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) at the Harvard Psychological Clinic in the year 1935. They finally concluded that Thematic Apperception Test is formative and functional projective method to map and evaluate the patterns of thought of a person, his capacity of observation, his emotional responses, his attitudes and his duality of perception. Though this observation has thoroughly been Western in its origin, researchers, of late, started using more democratically, in fact more effectively. Researchers have initiated a similar Thematic Apperception Test in a Subject.

CASE STUDY OF THE SUBJECT:

ADMINISTRATION OF TAT

The TAT was administered to study the personality of a Subject aged about 26+ years unmarried male dated 30th March 31, 2012 at 7 P.M. and he agreed to undertake the test when I explain the whole TAT for about minutes. After understanding the purpose of the test he readily agreed to cooperate. He belongs to a rural area and presently working as a school teacher on deputation vacancy. His father is a 'Purohit'. It reveals that he has come from a middle class economic background. His hobby is reading books.

The administrator described to him the TAT in full and showed him all the pictures one-by-one. The administrator also told him that the maximum time-limit for each card is five minutes. The administrator also said that the following points should be kept in mind while writing a story:

1. What happened so that this event is shown to the picture?
2. What is going on in each picture?
3. Who are the persons in the picture, their relationship, what they are thinking and feeling about it?
4. What would be the end?

INQUIRY

1. **About non-compliance with four aspects of instructions:** He maintained with all the four aspects of instructions in all pictures.
2. **About the identification and empathy:** He has identified all the pictures.
3. **About ambiguities:** As per the Subject perception no ambiguity was found.
4. **About omission:** He has not omitted anything.
5. **About introduced content:** Subject was accepted the content and performed accordingly.

6. **About peculiarities of utterances, pauses, hesitation, rejection and the like:** With regard to the above queries the Subject was comfortable.
7. **About perceptual distortions:** No perceptual distortions were found with the Subject.
8. **About story interruptions:** There were no interruptions in any stories.
9. **About the best like & least like picture:** T. (10) is the best like & T. (4. M.B) is least like picture for the Subject.

OBSERVATION OF DETAILS:

ABOUT THE PLOT

Card No	PLOT
T. (2)	The theme of the picture is the raw and natural depiction of a village life without much pomp and show.
T. (3 F.G.)	The theme of the picture is described as the unalloyed mother-child relationship where mistake is subsumed by overpowering love.
T. (4 F.G)	The theme of the picture is a description of the relationship between a husband and wife. The wife is worried about the husband's negative and detached attitude towards family life.
T. (4. M.B)	The theme of the picture is the manifestation of a dilemma between present reality and future necessity of a widow mother and young son. The mother is anguished and grief-stricken as she does not want to lose the support of the son and also does not want to jeopardize his future.
T. (10)	The theme of the picture shows a conflict between pessimism and optimism which is symbolized as darkness and light. Ultimately the greatest lesson of life is leant and life is relooked with new possibilities.
T. (8)	The theme of the picture is the ultimate surrender of a woman before the divine for protection from the imminent dangers in life.
T.(6)	The theme of the picture is a wonderful description of the natural beauty that is eternal, not merely contemporary.
T. (9)	The theme of the picture is the manifestation of a post intimacy trust-deficit between the husband and wife. The big question is whether wife is a commodity for mere exploitation and enjoyment?
T. (1)	The theme of the picture depicts about a poor boy who, despite not being able to play the violin, thinks about it. It is a symbolic expression of concern for the old cultural heritage.
T. (3 M.B.)	The theme of the picture shows the reactionary anger of a father to keep the son away from some misdeeds.

ANALYSIS & FINDING:

After analysis of the data obtained from administration of the TAT it may be reported that the subject is kind of person with optimism and values with a genuine concern for the tradition

and cultural heritage. Familial love, kinship and human values are exhibited in his personality. He has got a tremendous sensitivity and appreciation of nature and natural beauty. He is endowed with the power of creative imagination and linguistic ability and skill to express and edify the concern and concept.

Although there appeared occasional inner conflicts in the subject, in ultimate analysis he is found to be a man of values and forward looking without disregarding the family and relationship. There are ample evidences of positive attitude in the boy. The expressions reveal his extrovert nature.

CONCLUSION:

Thematic Apperception Test is almost x-ray light that captures the emotional ups and downs of the sensible responses of a person. In this study of the Subject the findings are amazing and at the same time believable. Thematic Apperception Test is one such prism that can exhibit light from multiple dimensions and it has the ability to reach to the every single corner of human responses.

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