

## **Semantics of peer violence**

**Bojan Dekleva, Ph.D.** in Psychology, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Department of Social Pedagogy, Kardeljeva ploščad 16, 1000, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Together with the mental and conceptual discovery of a new phenomenon - bullying - there is a growing need to understand the diverse terms used to denote this phenomenon and to develop an appropriate methodology for its cross-cultural research. The paper provides results of the Slovene part of a cross-cultural study, the aim of which was to explore the semantic structure of expressions used by children aged from eight to fourteen for this phenomenon. Research study has established: A. that the most appropriate individual term for calling this phenomenon in questionnaires is the expression "trpinčenje"; B. that pupils of 2nd and 8th class of elementary school classified diverse forms of abuse according to two latent dimensions, among which one of them distinguished between more and less serious forms of abuse, while the other, between direct/physical abuse and indirect/social abuse; C. that all the used and investigated expressions refer to a greater extent to physical forms of abuse and only to a lesser extent to verbal/social abuse.

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