



The 3rd International Conference on Research in  
Education, Teaching and Learning

February 21-23, 2020 in Rome, Italy



**Youth Values: Analysis  
Outcomes of Latvia  
Secondary School  
Students' Essays**

*professor Dr. Zenta Anspoka*

*University of Latvia*

## Topicality of the research

- ▶ globalization and dynamic changes in the society and inherited individual, social and cultural values preservation and forwarding
- ▶ every individual and society's understanding of values as the basis of quality of life of the society's sustainability and every individual
- ▶ State Research Programme “Latvian Language” (No VPP- IZM-2018/2-0002) strategic goal to develop human capital, also give a contribution to the education and language acquisition field and strengthen the role and functions of the state language

**The goal of the research** - to study pupils' essays of gymnasiums, secondary schools with Latvian language of instruction and minority secondary schools of three Latvia Regions (Riga, Kurzeme and Latgale) and analyse the young people's attitude towards the surrounding world and their values orientation in them.



# The research methodology

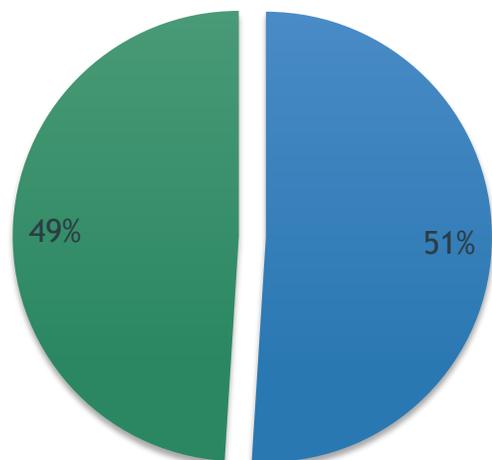
- ▶ theory of A. Maslov's hierarchy of needs (Maslow, 1943), S. Schwartz's model of values (Schwartz, 1992; Schwarch, Luycx, Vignoles, 2011), linguistics and linguodidactics theories (Laiveniece, 2010; Nītiņa, 2014; Ralph, Steve, 2019)
- ▶ 409 argumentative type texts, created independently by Class 12 students (17-19 year-old youth) of Latvia regional gymnasiums, secondary schools with Latvian language of instruction and minority secondary schools (words, word collocations, sentences, in which the secondary school students' chosen values in compliance with the rating of values offered by S. Schwartz can be seen (Schwartz, 1992)

# Theoretical framework

- ▶ the base of the society's existence is successful communication and mutual collaboration
- ▶ society's sustainability is determined by what we as a society in general and each individual separately want to achieve, create, develop and protect
- ▶ the term “value” as the base for a set of positive qualities that determine something important, significant, useful, ideal to a certain extent, which can be achieved in a purposeful action, one can talk about individual values, social values and cultural values (Schwartz, 1992; Schwarch, Luycx, Vignoles, 2011)
- ▶ the language, in which the thought is materialized, is one of the means according to whose application one can judge what the person's level of thinking, level of knowledge, social environment, in which they live, attitude towards oneself and the society in general are (Laiveniece, 2010; Nītiņa, 2014; Ralph, Steve, 2019)

## Results (1)

### *Pupil's skills to bring out personal attitude*

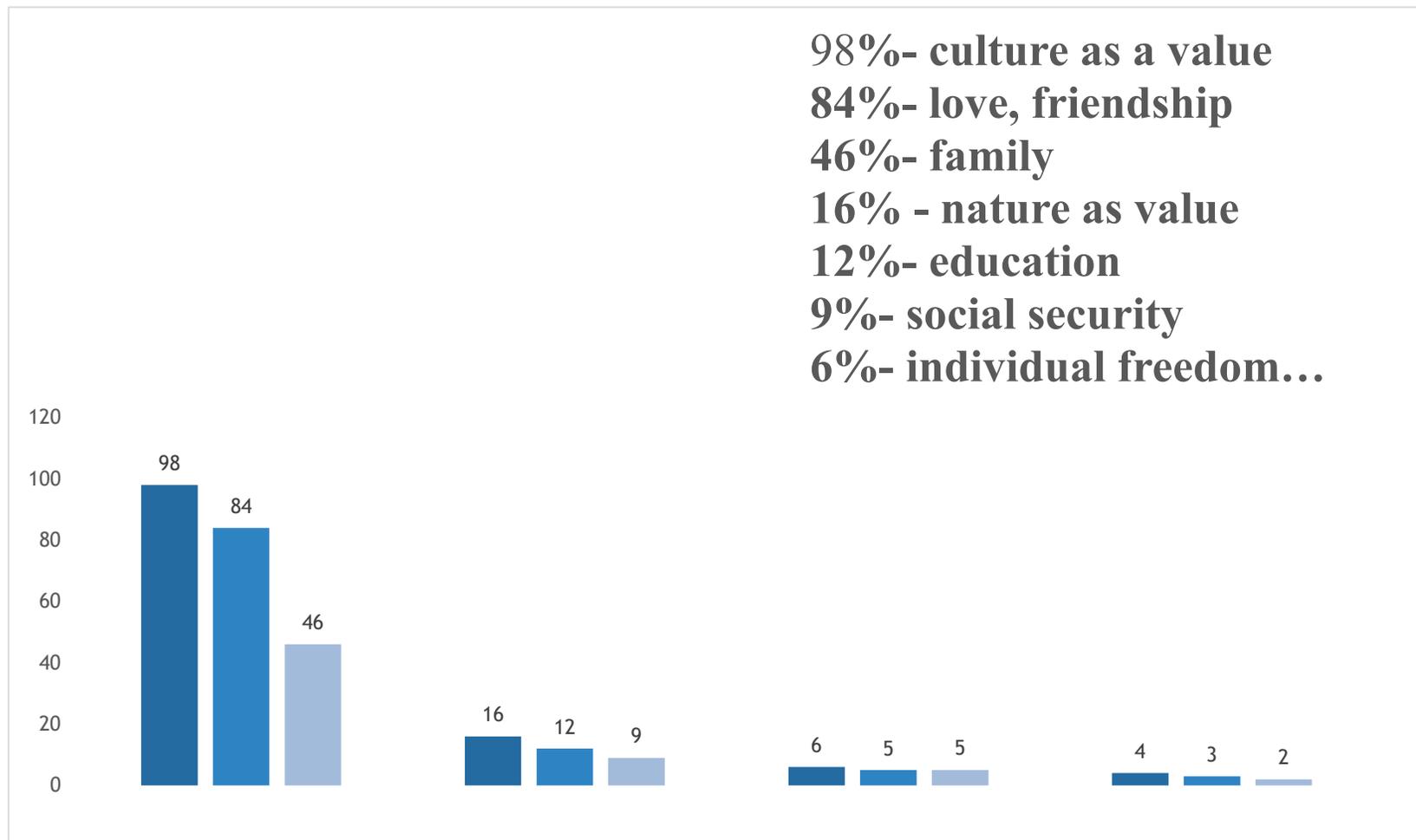


51%- overwhelming attitudes to values

49%- partially expressed attitudes to values

## Results (2)

### *An overview of the values of young people*



# Results (3)



## *Some problems which emerge from the youth's view of life*

- ▶ 4% - intolerance for diversity, different opinions
- ▶ 2% - depression, the situations are described in which they lack willpower, motivation to act; they wait for help from other people, especially from the family and teachers in order to be clear about their goals, the way to achieve them
- ▶ 4% - young people accept facts, information as their own without critical assessment

# Conclusions

- ▶ the youth's awareness of values is essentially affected by global processes, economic and social changes in the society, informative environment and development of technologies
- ▶ the youth's selection of values emerges from the socioeconomic situation, the skill to correlate their values with the social environment and cultural acquisition possibilities
- ▶ there are no significant differences expressed about attitude to values in students' work among different regional gymnasiums, secondary schools with Latvian language of instruction and minority secondary schools; the only differences can be noticed in the use of language tools
- ▶ among the values important for a young person as an individual in order both to self-realize and self-express, love, friendship, education, individual freedom, affluence, social status, success and enjoyment of love can be considered as statistically significant

- ▶ among the values important for the society and mutual communication the youth distinguish nature as a value, social security peace and stability, concord and tolerance in the society
- ▶ the values related to cultural development and self-preservation as important for the young person are the national and world culture values and religious values
- ▶ in order to decrease the excessive categoricity in the youth's judgements, perception and assessment of the information found in uncritical mass media, also intolerance to diversity, to different opinions, more attention has to be paid to the upbringing issues in the education process, promotion of critical thinking, expression of argumentative opinion based on facts, skills to assess information from the point of credibility , formation of tolerant attitude to different people in the society

## References

- Anspoka, Z., Tūbele, S. (2015). *Lingvodidaktika: latviešu valoda 1. – 6. klasē. Monogrāfija*. Rīga: LVA. (in Latvian)
- Jauniešu iespēju, attieksmju un vērtību pētījums*. (2013). Sia „Excolo Latvia”. Available: <https://dom.lndb.lv> > data > obj (in Latvian)
- Laiveniece, D. (2010). Teksta lingvodidaktiskie aspekti mācību procesā. *Valodu apguve: problēmas un perspektīva: zinātnisko rakstu krājums, VII*. Liepāja: LiePA, 2010. 276.-291. lpp. (in Latvian)
- Maslow, A.H. (1943). A Theory of Human Motivation. *Psychological Review*. pp. 370-396.
- Nītiņa, D. (2014). Vārdu un vārdformu sematikas pragmatiski aspekti. *Ne tikai gramatika: rakstu izlase*. Sat. Autore. Rīga: Latviešu valodas institūts. 327. - 333. lpp. (in Latvian)
- Ralph, P. F., Steve, G. (2019). *Argumentative writing: theory, assessment, and instruction*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.researchgate.net> > publication > 332972494\_Argumentative\_wri...
- Schwartz, S.H. (1992). Universals in the Content and Structure of Values: Theoretical Advances and Empirical Tests in 20 Countries. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, 25. p. 1-65.
- Schwarch, S. L, Luycx, K., Vignoles, V. I. (2011). *Handbook of identity, theory and research. Structures and process*. New York: Springer.



**Thank you for attention!**  
**Paldies par uzmanību!**

[zenta.anspoka@lu.lv](mailto:zenta.anspoka@lu.lv)