

## Family psychoanalysis: a systematic literature review

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### Abstract

**Historical background:** Family problems within the framework of the psychoanalytic approach have a rich history of research, which originates from the case of "Little Hans". This is one of the famous clinical cases by Z. Freud, which occurred in 1907 and its first mentioning refers to the "Open letter to Dr. M. Furst: On the sexual education of children", and published as "Phobia analysis of the five-year-old boy" in 1909 in German in the publication "Jb. Psychoanalyt. psychopath. Forsch., B. 1(1), 1-109» [33]. The current state of family psychoanalysis proposed more than 10 theoretical approaches and models as the basic foundations that aim to study a fairly wide range of family problems and comprehension of it as a system that includes a set of relationships that function in a unique way which is characteristic for a particular family [48]. The authors make emphasis on family relationships through the study of the uniqueness of the personality development for each partner, children and other family members with the analysis of their life, study of child relationship and its transformation within the reality of created relations system.

In the article we consider the contemporary state of family psychoanalytic studies in accordance with the systematic literature review in order to unify the preservation and representation of basic provisions under the selected concepts of family studies within the family psychoanalysis as an independent direction of psychoanalytic research under the recognition within the scope of scientific literature.

**Methods:** we conducted a systematic literature search within the scope of family problems in regard to psychoanalysis in the information bases of the Scientific electronic library eLIBRARY.ru, the information platform of the international book publisher Taylor & Francis Group and the information platform of the independent publishing company SAGE Publishing (previously SAGE Publications).

In our review of articles, we have focused special attention to the following aspects: (1) basic provisions of family psychoanalysis (definitions, terms, approaches, authors); (2) family problems presented in family psychoanalysis research; (3) the potential of family psychoanalysis as a family research area; and (4) the applicability of family psychoanalysis and its family research areas in various areas of life.

**Results:** All in all, 61 articles meet certain criteria for inclusion in the review. The survey showed that family psychoanalysis has sufficient accuracy, one can use it as one of the main directions within the deep and systematic study of the family, it is a sensitive and specific study in respect to the development dynamics of family and relationships and its provisions are important benchmarks in research design and assessment of the reality influence on the family.

**Conclusions:** the scope of problems within the selected articles reflects the main directions of family psychoanalytic research, which is consistent with the problem field of family psychoanalysis. The combination of family psychoanalytic studies within the scope of family psychoanalysis will protect from the content disintegration of the basic definitions in regard to those phenomena and problems of family life that have already been under study. It will provide a clearer comprehension of terminology within the framework of psychoanalytic practice, which will coordinate the diagnosis and work of the Counseling specialists.

### **Keywords**

Psychoanalysis

Family

Family relations

Family psychoanalysis

Systematic literature review

### **Introduction**

*"...One cannot achieve a more deep problems comprehension of love, sex, and marriage without the background understanding of the psychic connections that unite parent and child, knowledge that psychology only starts to allow itself."*

Flugel George. K.  
Psychoanalytic study of the family, 1921. [51]

The relevance of scientific research within the scope of family psychoanalysis is due to the increase in tension within the life of the modern family as a social group. The challenges of reality include the intense intrusions into the family's life space by multi-level combinations of political, national, economic, religious, social and psychological crises, tensions, confrontations and conflicts of the world.

As a single and most significant fact, the influence of reality on family life, we should note: in accordance with the survey of Russians, the increase of problem families among their neighbours (4% in 2013; 16% in 2018) [21]; increased influence of psychological factors that determine the tension within the family relationships (19% in 2013 and 21% in 2019) [22]; the situation of the pandemic coronavirus has caused a surge in the number of divorces in China associated with high tension in the marital relationship, in a situation of high intensity and depth of cooperation under home quarantine [23].

The above-mentioned actual problems of the modern family are the focus of a whole direction within the psychoanalytic research. So, the position developed by N. Ackermann, D. Winnicott, O. Kersbergen, M. Klein, M. Nichols, D. P. Siegel, A. Freud, George Flugel and others.[1], [2], [3], [4] [9], [10], [11], [12], [16], [17], [18], [19], [40], [41], [42], [52], orient the research of actual family problems on the study in relation to the uniqueness of the personality development for each partner, and the research focus is the analysis of his life, with a focus on

the study of child relationship experience and transformation of this experience in the actual relations of partners in a valid variety [3], [4], [6], [8], [9], [13], [20], [27], [46], [47], [51], [59].

The website's analysis of the psychoanalytic electronic publications (Psychoanalytic Electronic Publishing) revealed that the first work devoted to the influence of problem family relations on the effect and development of psychopathological reactions of the individual belonged to L. E. Emerson in 1914 in the Journal of Abnormal Psychology [50], and the book by J. Flugel "Psychoanalytic study of the family" [52] it became the first in terms of the psychoanalysis methodology application to the study of various areas of family relations – spousal, parent-child, and sibling.

We note that the time periods of these concepts study and development are not so distant, and the provisions are outdated. It is often more advantageous to recognize such remoteness economically and politically in order to emphasize success in these areas, rather than to understand the complexity of the family development as a social group.

A long history, a wide range of problems and a multi-level depth of family psychoanalytic research allowed a significant number of authors to specify the system of family problems research and assess their effects within the "norm-pathology". It, among the other things, allowed R. E. Heyman, A. M. S. Slep, S. R. H. Beach, M. Z. Wamboldt, N. J. Kaslow, and D. Reiss to consider the possibilities of clinical evaluation in respect to various effects of family relationships that are due to the interaction of personal characteristics between the marriage partners and family members [53].

The modern comprehension of family problems reasonably associates with the family health, and one considers it as the basis of physical and mental health of the world's population, which is legitimately in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) and in the group "Relational Problems" [49]. We should note that the entire space of the diagnostic domain in regard to the DSM-5 group "Relational problems" correlates with the problems of family psychoanalytic studies, which refers to the indicators recognition of relationship problems: basic and intimate relationships of adult partners, parent-child relationships in the field of education and intergenerational relationships that affect the health of people in these relationships. The position of the DSM-5 Manual, with regard to the need for the psychosocial problems integration in relational problems (problems with primary support group; problems of relations with social environment) [49], correspond to the basic provisions of psychoanalytic family research focused on the study of family social environment, family constellations, intergenerational relations and relations with the parental family [15], [26], [28], [43], [44], [47], [48], [49].

In accordance with the above-mentioned statements, A. N. Kharitonov developed and conceptualized the basic provisions of family psychoanalysis.

***The methodological grounds, definition (essence), objectives and the main sections of family psychoanalysis***

In the grounds to the concept, theory and practice of family psychoanalysis as a new scientific and practical, clinical direction in Russia, I relied on the following theoretical models:

- 1) classical psychoanalysis of Z. Freud (the first experience of family psychoanalysis-the case of little Hans) [33];
- 2) theories of object relations (M. Klein, R. Fairbairn, M. Balint, D. Winnicott, O. Kernberg, etc.) [5], [9], [10], [11], [12], [29], [30], [31], [36];;
- 3) child psychoanalysis by M. Klein and A. Freud [11], [12], [14], [26];;
- 4) Ego-psychology by H. Hartmann, A. Freud, E. Erickson [32], [37], [38], [39], [43];
- 5) psychology of the sameness, narcissism by H. Kohut and his students [7], [9], [10], [15], [25], [29], [34], [45], [54], [55], [57], [58];
- 6) theories of humanistic, interpersonal psychoanalysis by E. Fromm, G. S. Sullivan, K. Horney [35], [37], [40], [41], [42], [43], [44];
- 7) French school and Lacanian psychoanalysis [40], [41], [42];

- 8) ideas about marriage by C. G. Jung [40], [41], [42];
- 9) ideas of "family constellation" ("family education") by A. Adler [40], [41], [42];
- 10) family psychoanalytic psychotherapy by N. Akkerman (1958) [1], [2], [3], [4], as well as G. Dix, J. Framo, T. Leeds, M. Kerr, N. Paul, I. Boshormeni-Nagy, etc.[40], [41], [42];
- 11) psychoanalytic practice of work with the family by a number of psychoanalysts in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, France (D. Bloch, D. Jackson, M. Mahler, F. Fromm-Reichman, N. Paul, H. Richter, H. Sterlin, M. Selvini-Palazzoli, J. Flugel, B. Sperling, etc.) [40], [41], [42];

In addition, we presented the reconsideration of new ideas by V. N. Myasishchev on the theory of relations, the experience of psychodynamically oriented family therapy by the domestic experts V. K. Maher, T. M. Mishina (70-ies of XX century) [40], [41], [42].

*Family psychoanalysis refers to a direction in psychoanalysis that focuses on the patterns, phenomena of family relations, interactions, as well as comprehension of the normal, problematic functioning of the family and the family form of psychoanalytic assistance (psychotherapy).*

*Family psychoanalysis includes three main sections (structural compositions):*

- 1) psychoanalysis of normal development, functioning, and evolution of the family;
- 2) family psychoanalytic psychopathology;
- 3) family psychoanalytic psychotherapy.

**The goals of family psychoanalysis:**

1. Determine the criteria, indicators of mature, normal functioning of the family, develop ideas about harmonious relationships in the family, justify, understand the patterns, mechanisms, phenomena of family psychoanalysis psychology as a whole and as the object relations.

2. Substantiate and develop signs and indicators of problematic multi-level relationships in the family – difficult, pre-broken (borderline) and problem, i.e. different levels of relational conditions.

3. Develop a concept in the content and psychotechnical sense of family psychoanalytic assistance in the form of a family psychoanalytic psychotherapy method (short-term, long-term options) [40], [41], [42].

The relevant family problems and the presented basic provisions of family psychoanalysis allowed us to analyze the development of psychoanalytic approaches with focus to help the family to identify and then combine them within the framework of family psychoanalysis.

*The purpose of the research* is to conduct a systematic literature review on psychoanalytic family research with an emphasis on the following aspects:

- (1) representation of the basic family psychoanalysis provisions in modern research;
- (2) comprehension the root directions within the psychoanalytic research of the family;
- (3) the potential of modern psychoanalytic studies in regard to the family and its consistency with the problematic field of family status and family relations;
- (4) the possibility of psychoanalytic family studies combination in the area of family psychoanalysis in order to harmonize theoretical and practical provisions and conceptualize the provision of psychological assistance to families.

**Materials and Methods**

Search strategy

1. *Selection of information platforms for the analysis.* The research strategy in order to present the problems of family psychoanalysis in scientific articles suggested that the analysis of scientific content could refer to the use of search engines through the scientific information platforms.

We selected the information platforms in accordance with the following criteria:

- platforms should have a multidisciplinary focus and possibly more diverse national

affiliation (for a broader analysis of the family psychoanalysis problems);

- platforms must have a scientific focus and linkage with the Web of Science, Scopus, and Journal Citation Reports. It allows the analysis of publications on family psychoanalysis to be based on the transparent data and statistics that are independent of the publisher and authors, so that one might make the informed decisions in the study of the publications content.

- platforms should have common links to coordinate search engines that allow you to allocate group information for publications by: type and date of publication, keywords, reference to the academies (topics) and journals.

During the selection of information platforms for the analysis of articles in the Russian space we selected the Scientific electronic library (SEL) eLIBRARY.ru, among the foreign platforms we selected: the information platform of the international book publisher Taylor & Francis Group and the information platform SAGE JOURNALS (an independent publishing company SAGE Publishing).

2. *Criteria for inclusion and exclusion of articles.* In order to select the scientific articles on information platforms, we applied to a selection by keywords, which allowed us to assess the ratio of research on various family problems and psychoanalytic research on family problems. Within the adjustment of a keyword search, we used several provisions:

- the keywords in scientific articles are the semantic core of the article's text and determine the semantic space of its content;

- keywords are a set of words, each of which may not enter in the title of the article, but may contain semantic threads of the article's text and reflect the emphasis of the article's topic;

- keywords can focus on the inclusion of professional terms and abbreviations that have a concentrated (1 or a combination of 2-3 words) and clearly defined meaning that reveals and relates the text to a specific problem or research direction;

- keywords – words that are attractive to the author of the article and the points that visitors use in the search engine to find the interesting information.

We used the following keyword search scheme to select the articles:

- a) selection by keywords: "family" (in the Russian-language information system eLIBRARY.ru) and "family" (on the English-language platforms Taylor & Francis Group and SAGE JOURNALS);

- b) selection by the keywords "психоанализ" and "psychoanalysis»;

- c) selection by combination of keywords: "семья" + "психоанализ" and "family" + "psychoanalysis".

The selection of articles at each stage occurred without the consideration whether the article has open access or not.

This selection scheme allowed the analysis of articles that include psychoanalytic studies of family problems and their share in the sphere of "family studies" and "psychoanalytic research". Quite wide boundaries, set by the keywords "family" and "psychoanalysis" separately, allowed us to identify the territorial range of scientific publications, as well as to determine the time and thematic coordinates of these area under study, in order to understand the dynamics and uniqueness of the research topic of interest.

#### Elaboration methods

We maintained the selection of articles on information platforms eLIBRARY.ru, Taylor & Francis Group and SAGE JOURNALS through their search engines. All scientific articles published before or on May 10, 2020 were under review and processing in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria.

During the usage of search engines, we excluded books, abstracts, reviews, and other documents from the results by selection of the document type -"article", in the search box. We assessed the other scientific articles by criteria, and we included the scientific articles selected by

the combination of the keywords "family" + "psychoanalysis" in the group for qualitative analysis of their annotations through *the program TextAnalist v2.01*.

The TextAnalist v2. 01. program allows you to create a network of the main (most significant) concepts within the texts under study. This network serves as a representation of the text's meaning and the basis for all types of further analysis.

One uses the TextAnalist v2. 01 program in order to analyze the annotations of 61 scientific articles (7 (11.5 %) open-source articles) on family psychoanalysis by the information content: which problems descriptions of family research are in the articles; which of the family psychoanalysis terms and in what combination the authors use; which of the basic provisions the authors developed most of all within the articles (schools, directions, authors).

**Results**

The block scheme for the study of family psychoanalysis articles (fig. 1) shows the number of identified scientific articles for each information platform at each stage of the study, which we subsequently saved and used for the analysis.

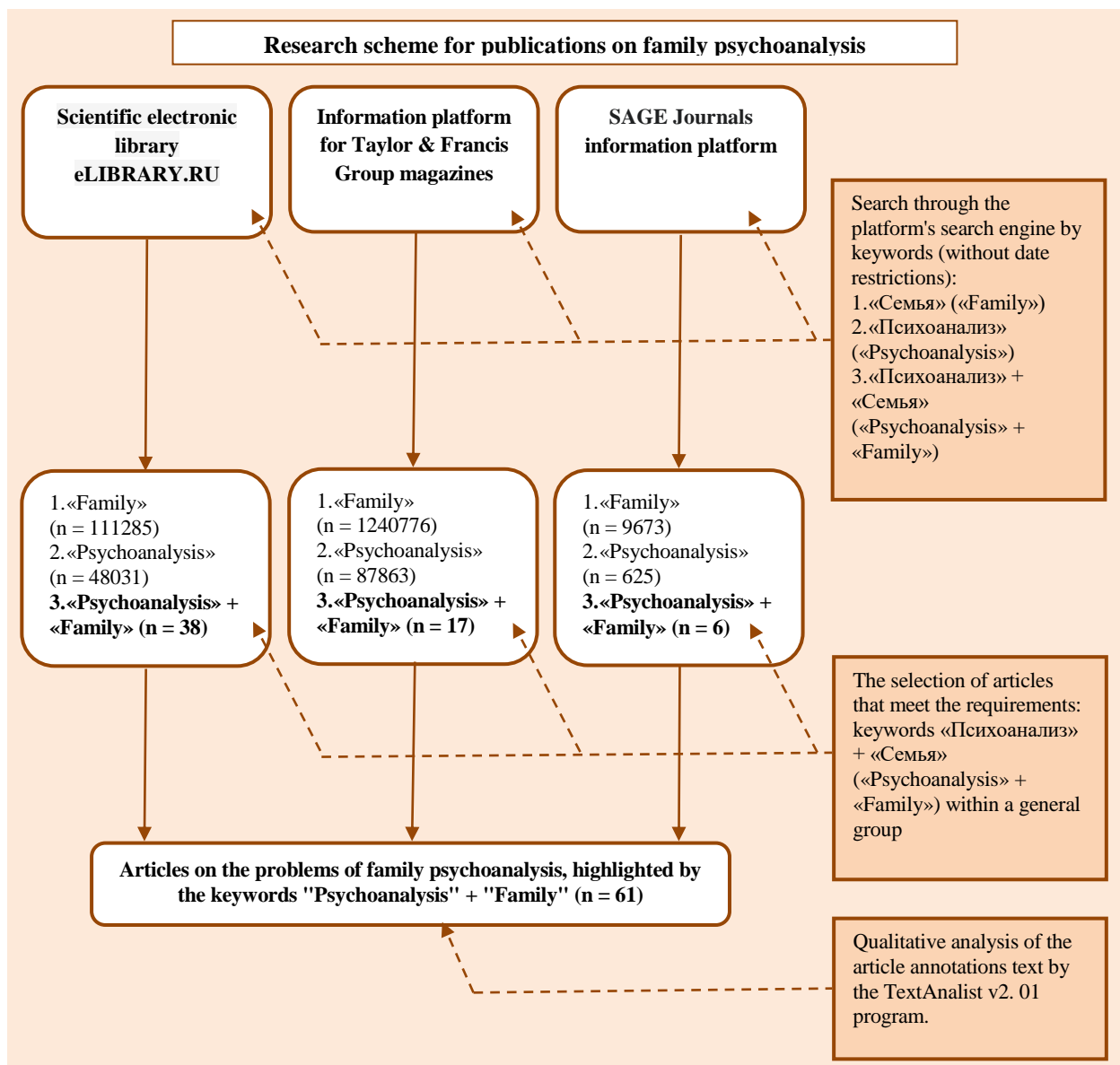


Fig. 1. Block scheme of research articles on family psychoanalysis.

Search in databases, information platforms for the keyword "семья" and "family" (as well as language databases), allowed to highlight in the array of SEL articles eLibrary eLIBRARY.ru – 111285 articles, and in resources Taylor & Francis Group and SAGE JOURNALS – 1240776 and articles 9673, respectively. The arrays of articles differ by an order of magnitude and allow to assess the topics of interest in articles within the arrays of different volumes.

The selection by the keyword "psychoanalysis" allowed us to select in the SEL eLIBRARY.ru – 48031 articles, in Taylor & Francis Group resources - 87863 articles and in SAGE JOURNALS - 625 articles. This stage of the search aimed at a comparative analysis of thematic fields on each of the platforms with an array of psychoanalytic publications and subsequent comparison with the number of articles on family problems.

At the third stage, the search and subsequent selection of articles on the combination of keywords "семья" + "психоанализ" ("family" + "psychoanalysis"): on the SEL platform eLIBRARY.ru -38 articles, in the resources of Taylor & Francis Group and SAGE JOURNALS - 17 and 6 articles, respectively.

The time period for publication of articles (n=61) is between 1991 and 2020.

After three stages of work with the keywords, we determined the comparative indicators of articles information spaces ratio, which are in Fig. 2.

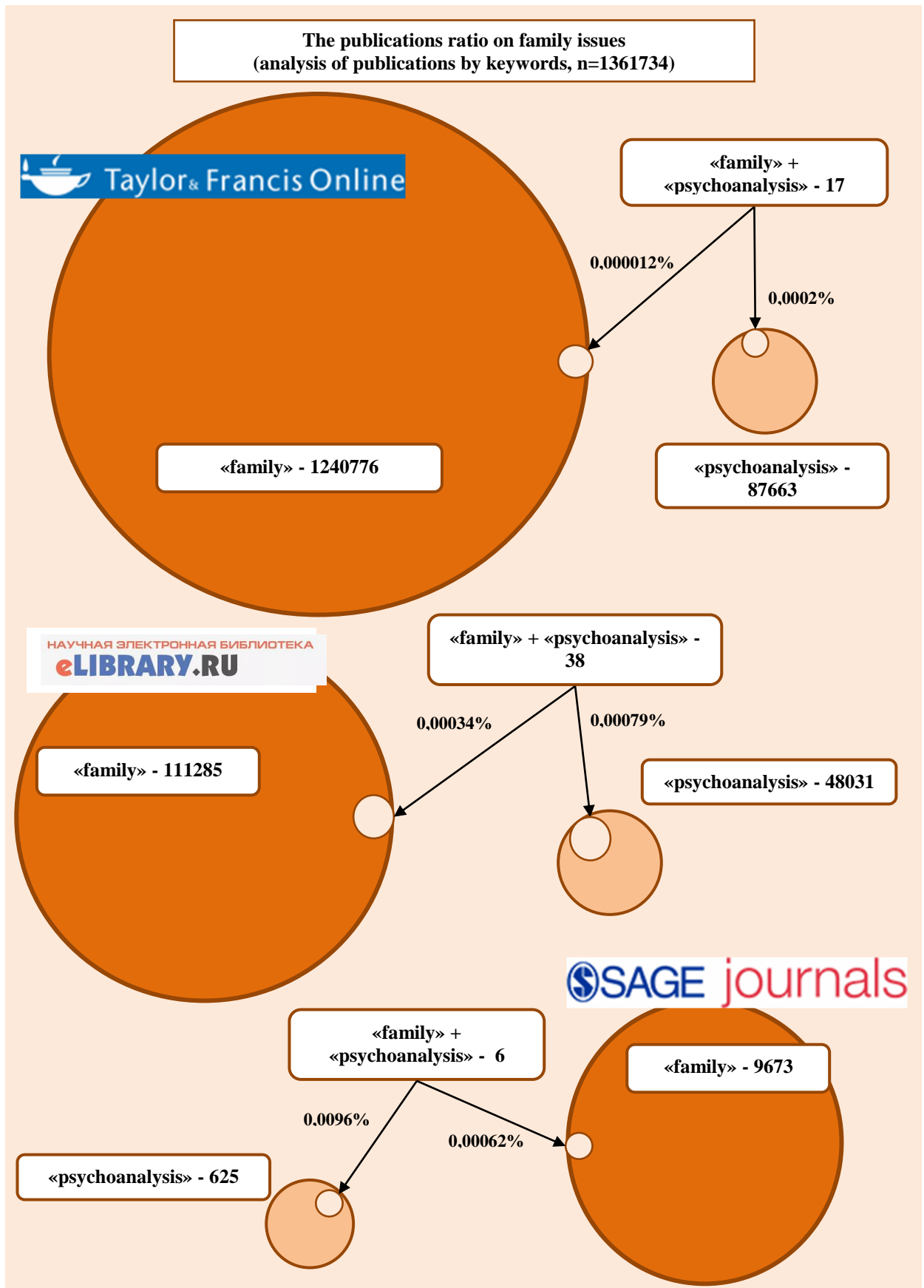


Fig. 2. The correlation of articles on family psychoanalysis and thematic spaces of publications on family and psychoanalysis on SEL information resources eLIBRARY.ru, Taylor & Francis Group and SAGE JOURNALS.



The presented ratios (see Fig. 2.) allow us to note a small percentage of articles on family psychoanalytic studies in the field of publications on family problems and separately within the framework of psychoanalysis.

We should also note that the share of articles shows a general trend that is typical for information platforms of various national affiliations, content and dimensions.

After the selection of articles by the keywords "family" + "psychoanalysis" (n = 61), in accordance with the research strategy, we performed a quantitative and semantic analysis of the abstract content in respect to 56 articles (91.8%), since 5 articles had no abstracts.

The quantitative analysis of the abstracts content showed that the average number of words  $x=130.31$ ,  $SD=84.78$ , with  $min = 18$  and  $max = 467$ .

It seems interesting that in the text of their articles abstracts, the authors noted the following names of psychoanalytic school representatives (we note them alphabetically, without consideration of incidence degree, with consideration of ethical provisions): A. Adler, W. Bion, J. Bowlby, I. D. Ermakov, F. Dolto, J. Lacan, E. Pickler, R. Fairburn, V. Fliss, Z. Freud, E. Fromm, K. Horney, D. Sharff, J. Sharff, D. Stern, R. Spitz, M. Ainsworth.

Semantic analysis of the abstract articles text by the program TextAnalist v2. 01, allowed us to assess the network of basic (most significant) concepts contained in the text of abstracts. We realized this analysis by the correlation of all abstract texts in the articles into a single text space and further it's assessment by the "semantic analysis" function of the TextAnalist v2. 01 program.

The resulting semantic network that reveals the meaning of a single text space is in the form of a semantic tree (see fig. 3).

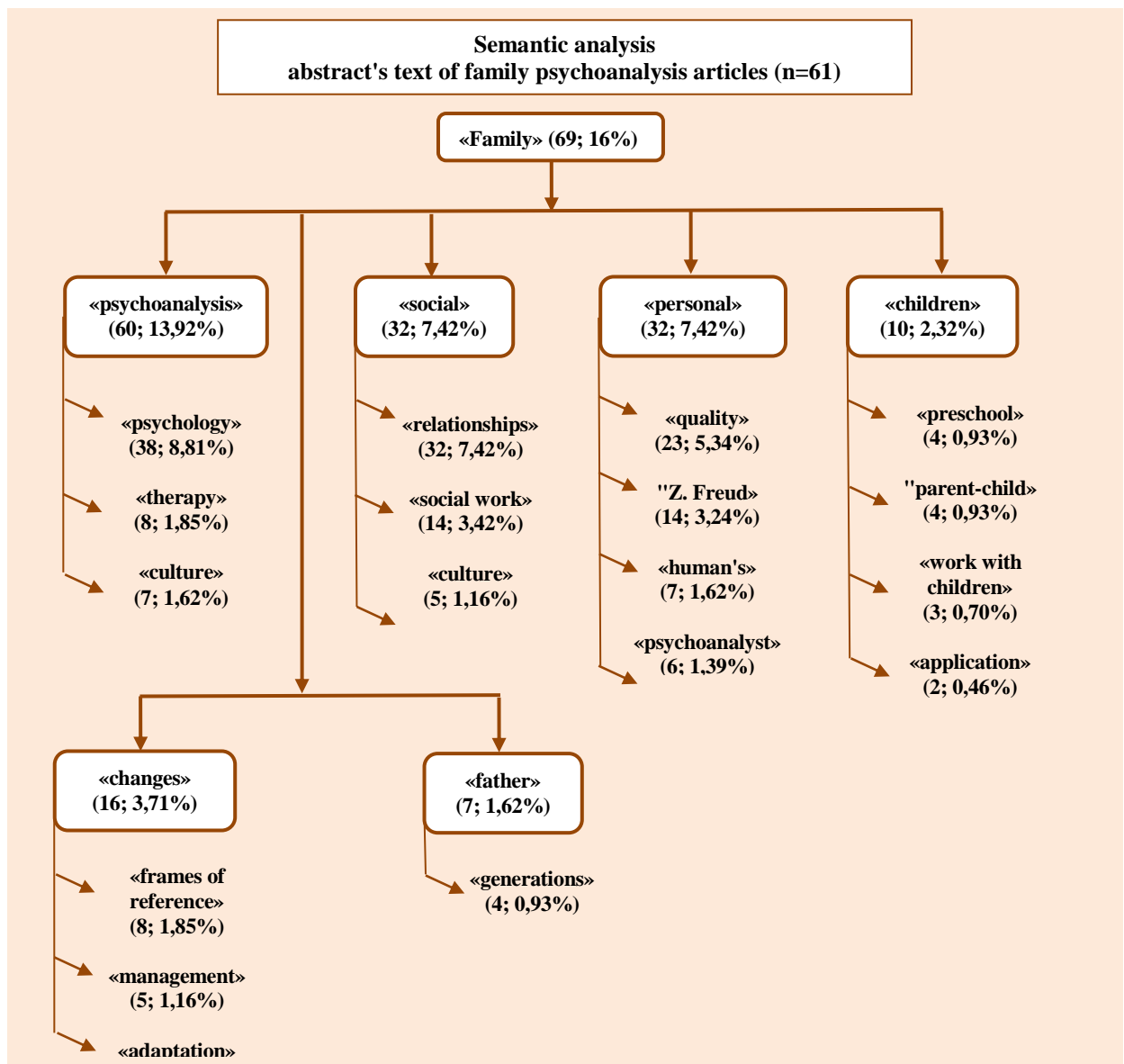


Fig. 3. Semantic tree of terms from the text of abstracts' articles on family psychoanalysis within SEL information resources eLIBRARY.ru, Taylor & Francis Group and SAGE JOURNALS.

*Note:*we indicate the semantic analysis parameters in the brackets next to the key terms: the first digit indicates the number of semantic nodes that have the term; the second digit ( % ) indicates the percentage of the semantic nodes number within the total number of nodes in the total volume under the analysis.

We should note that we represent the semantic tree in a single semantic space, which has a common term – "Family" (tree trunk) with parameters: 69 – the number of semantic nodes that we combine in accordance with the term "Family" with a share of 16% among the total number of semantic nodes in the combined text length.

The semantic tree of abstract articles on family psychoanalysis has six main branches, which we represent by semantic load: (a) " psychoanalysis "(60; 13.92%); (b) " social "(32; 7.42%); (c) " personal "(32; 7.42%); (d) " children "(10; 2.32%); (e) " changes" (16; 3.71%); (f) " father " (7; 1.62%). Each of these branches has smaller branches that show: the scope of the basic concept development; semantic connections of each concept with mention only in passing and connect a very small share of information related to this concept.

### Discussion

In the presented systematic review of articles on psychoanalytic research of family problems, which one can combine into the problem space of family psychoanalysis study, we analyzed about 1500,000 articles on three national information platforms, which combine more than 17,000 scientific journals of multidisciplinary orientation.

As a result of the articles selection on these platforms, in accordance with certain criteria, we selected 61 scientific articles, that coincide with the main criterion – the combination of the keywords "family" + "psychoanalysis" within the article. All these material passed publications in magazines over the past 30 years (1991-2020) and only 9.8 % (n = 6) of them passed publications in specialized journals on psychoanalysis ("The International Journal of Psychoanalysis", "Psychoanalysis, Self and Context", "International Forum of Psychoanalysis" and "Psychoanalytical bulletin"). Probably, this fact is decisive in that in most articles, the representation of psychoanalytic terminology is rather blurry. This is consistent with the assumptions of N. McWilliams that as other areas of psychotherapy develop, one rediscovers, masks, renames and expropriates the basic psycho-dynamic terms and basic psychoanalytic knowledge [56].

At the same time, we should note that within the analysis of abstract articles (n = 56), they include the names of the psychoanalysis school representatives, that had a significant impact on the development of family psychoanalytic research and refer to the basic approaches of family psychoanalysis: A. Adler, W. Bion, J. Bowlby, I. D. Ermakov, F. Dolto, J. Lacan, E. Pickler, R. Fairburn, V. Fliss, Z. Freud, E. Fromm, K. Horney, D. Sharff, J. Sharff, D. Stern, R. Spitz, M. Ainsworth.

Of course, the analysis of articles abstracts, due to the small number of open-source articles (n = 11; 18 %), narrows the scope of the study, but, at the same time, allows us to note that the selected articles present provisions in the study of family problems from the position of: classical psychoanalysis by Z. Freud (in accordance with the first experiments of family psychoanalysis); the theory of object relations (R. Fairbairn); the theory of humanistic, interpersonal psychoanalysis (E. Fromm, K. Horney); the French school (F. Dolto) and psychoanalysis of J. Lacan; ideas about marriage by C. G. Jung; provisions of the "family constellation" ("family education") by A. Adler.

Within the *qualitative analysis framework in relation to the abstract's texts* by the TextAnalyst v2. 01 program, we identify a single semantic space, united in the form of a single branched tree. One represents the tree trunk by the term "Family", which is the basis for 69 semantic nodes that constitute a sixth part of the entire semantic space in the text of abstracts throughout 56 articles. It allows us to conclude that the authors of the articles consider the problems of families from the position of psychoanalytic theory, i.e. the basic concepts for them are the concept of family, its dynamics and structure, features of relationships and personal development. In addition, the single trunk allows us to say that there is no a more detailed concept within this space of the text, and we can say that the selected articles really consider the problems of the family and can combine into a single semantic space.

The tree on the basis of the term "Family" has a sufficient number of "large" branches that reflect quite independent directions (semantic connections) of the study on family problems.

The most significant of the branches is the branch (a) "psychoanalysis" (60; 13.92%), which reflects the basic of these directions of family studies and fully correspond to the second keyword "psychoanalysis" as a criterion for selection of the articles. The branch includes three constructs "psychology" (38; 8.81%), "therapy" (8; 1.85 %) and "culture" (7; 1.62 %), which reflect the analysis of family problems from the perspective of psychoanalytic theory with an emphasis on the study of psychological problems, features of psychological assistance and the study of modern cultural aspects of family development. This is consistent with the current problems of families, that the authors of the article noted in the introduction and with the

provisions of the basic theories of family psychoanalysis, highlighted in the description of the basic concepts. In addition, we should note that these constructs are not final and the constructs of "psychology" and "therapy" have further continuation on the more small branches. Thus, the construct of "psychology" continues to demonstrate itself in terms of "conflict" (11; 2.55 %) and parents (10; 2.32 %), and "therapy" in "family" (5; 1.16 %). The further development of branches indicates the focus of such psychological problems as conflicts and positions of parents, and assistance mainly within the form of family psychotherapy.

Branch (b) "social" (32; 7.42 %) includes three branches: "relationships" (32; 7.42 %); "social work" (14; 3.42 %) and "culture" (5; 1.16 %). This combination assumes that the entire social space in the text links to relationships, since the parameters are the same, and the adjective "social" also includes social work for the family support and the inclusion of cultural aspects in social relations. We should also note that only the "relationship" branch (32; 7.42 %) has a further extension, implemented in terms of "couple" (7; 1.62%), "partners" (7; 1.62%) and "goal" (3; 0.7%). It underlines that partner relationships have a key influence on the social relationships of the family and it is the purpose of such dependency's analysis.

Branch (c) "personal" (32; 7.42%) combines: "quality" (23; 5.34%), "Z. Freud" (14; 3.24%), "human" (7; 1.62%) and "psychoanalyst" (6; 1.39%). The content of the branch reveals the meaning of the family study through the quality of the personality, its level of development and it associates with the provisions of classical psychoanalysis and with the help that the psychoanalyst provides. It also implies the coordination of a certain personality quality in the process of psychoanalytic assistance and interaction with the psycho-analyst's personality, as an expert who can help.

Branch (d) "children" (10; 2.32%) includes such branches as: "preschool" (4; 0.93%); "parent-child" (4; 0.93%), "work with children" (3; 0.70%) and "application" (2; 0.46%). The semantic space of the branch combines analysis of family problems related to children with consideration of them within the framework of relations with parents and assistance to them. All of these branches are finite.

We represent the branch (e) "changes" (16; 3.71%) within the development of three branches: "frames of reference" (8; 1.85%); "management" (5; 1.16%) and "adaptation" (3; 0.70%). Thus, the semantic field formed by these branches focuses on the study of the family through the study of its changes and as a variant of these changes – adaptation. However, the consideration of changes relates to the ability to manage these changes, which may be a hint of awareness of changes.

The branch (f) "father" (7; 1.62%) reflects the role of the father in family life and has a further extension in the problem analysis of "generations" (4; 0.93%). This semantic connection focuses attention to the analysis of the father's leading role in intergenerational relations and indirectly connects it with the problems of childrearing. We should note that the term "mother" occurs only twice in the text space of the abstracts under analysis and the program does not identify it as an independent semantic node. Perhaps it is only due to the fact that we have selected fairly common keywords and in the text of articles, perhaps, we attributed more attention to this term. All branches in this group are finite.

With regard to the recognized branches, we should note that the deepest and most significant relationship is in the branch (a) "psychoanalysis", which sets the main space for consideration of family problems in accordance with the consideration of psychological problems and the provision of psychological assistance, as well as a highly detailed, implemented in three levels of semantic connections. The development of the father's problem has the most weak representation. One describes this topic rather narrowly within the scope of the certain articles.

In the presented semantic space, there is a sufficient expression of terms related to the topic of family, and the psychoanalytic terminology has less expression.

### **The limitations and strengths of the articles reviews on family psychoanalysis**

Our review has limits by the quality of the included studies, which involve a combination usage of only two, but main keywords "family" + "psychoanalysis" for the perimeter of study. We have not standardized the data collection and analysis, and the comparative analysis has fairly common character, but at the same time it demonstrates certain patterns of research in the field of family psychoanalysis. Despite these limitations, it is the first review on this issue that underlines the main problems of family psychoanalytic research in accordance with the keywords and on the basis of detailed qualitative analysis in relation to the text of abstract articles. This study can serve as a guideline for conceptualization of the basic family psychoanalysis provisions and further analysis in respect to their combination with the relevant frame of reference within the scientific publications for the reasonable support to families and individual family members.

### **Conclusions**

As conclusions on the systematic review of articles on family psychoanalysis we note the following statements:

1. The problem space presented in the selected articles reflects the main provisions of family psychoanalytic studies, that allow them to enter the problem field of family psychoanalysis. This combination will clarify the content of the basic definitions and recognize those phenomena and problems of family life that have already been under the study within the framework of psychotherapeutic practice and formulated under the psycho-dynamic terms, but due to modern requirements one have transformed, renamed and expropriated them in favor of other goals.

2. The coordination of family psychoanalytic studies in the space of family psychoanalysis will stop the blur of analytical terminology and stop the process mentioned by N. McWilliams [56] in regard to transformation, rephrasing of analytical terminology or its unjustified inclusion in other areas of psychotherapeutic and counseling support to the family.

3. The keywords of scientific publications reflect the boundaries of the thematic space and are consistent with the topic of the publication, but it is always the responsibility of the publication's author and his comprehension of the need to mention it, and even more the understanding of the content in relation to each keyword.

4. The authors of publications do not always associate their research with the main terms or do not consider it necessary to specify them as keywords, which often does not allow to find and include the articles by such criteria of search that really relate to family psychoanalysis and include them into the specified research space.

5. The scientific publications on family psychoanalysis in sufficient detail describe the study of social problems family relations, child development and the parent-child relationship, the role of the father and its impact on intergenerational relationships, realization of personal approach and the study of the family development dynamics.

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