

Typical errors in moral judgments

Illusion of thinking in moral and social judgments. Example [Sh. Nadirashvili]: Research participants were asked to read a fake historical text written in an ancient language and assess, using -5+5 scale, the behaviors described in the text in terms of their acceptability (ruthlessness to make the state stronger, etc.) The first text given to one group said that David Agmashenebeli was the author of the text, whereas in the second version Abbas I of Persia was named as the author. Both texts were identical. The average assessment given by the first group was about +4, and the average for the other group was -4.

The basis of the typical errors in moral judgments, just like in the case of illusions of thinking, is the **assimilation effect of the set underlying the process of thinking**. It is a very common effect and is not followed by the illusion of contrast or objectification that could fix it. It is under the influence of **conformity** and **stereotypes** [see **typical errors in aesthetic judgments**].