

Familism and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with grandparents of young adults from monoparental families¹

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Abstract: *Introduction:* The aim of the study was to determine the intensity of the dimensions of familism and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with grandparents in groups of young adults from monoparental families with their mother and from full families, and to estimate the relationship between the dimensions of familism and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with grandparents. *Method:* The research conducted was quantitative, cross-sectional and self-report. Four psychological tools with good psychometric properties were used, i.e. the Familism Scale, the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother, the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather, the Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale and the questionnaire. *Results:* There were no differences in the dimensions of familism in the groups of young adults from monoparental families with a mother and from complete families. Young women from monoparental families with their mother rated the quality of interpersonal relationships with their grandmother and grandfather higher than women from intact families. Statistically significant relationships were obtained between the dimensions of familism from the traditional values trend and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother. They occurred most frequently in the group of women from monoparental families with a mother. *Conclusions:* The specificity of research on the relationship between the dimensions of familism and the quality of interpersonal relationships between grandparents and grandchildren, especially those in early adulthood, is associated with methodological awareness of the high complexity of the family environment. Considering these issues creates space for searching for new methodological solutions.

Keywords: grandchildren, grandparents, familism, family, early adulthood, interpersonal relationship

1. Introduction

The contemporary massive and multidimensional sociocultural changes are playing an important role in the functioning of a person in numerous spheres of their life. While focusing on the family sphere, one can notice ongoing modifications in family systems, which have been observed in the last years both in the macro- and micro-scales (Bakiera, 2023; Liberska, 2014; Napora, 2022; Rostowska, 2019; Wałęcka-Matyja, Janicka, 2021). One of the more significant of them concerns transformations in the family system structure, including an increasing social approval of a divorce (Szlendak, 2015). This phenomenon was confirmed by the results of the

National Census of 2021, indicating that although complete families are still the most common type, accounting for 44% of all families in Poland, the number of marriages with children decreased by 14.5% in comparison with 2011. On the other hand, the family type which recorded growth (by 2.6%) in relation to the Census of 2011 is the monoparental family (mothers with children and fathers with children, comp. Burkacka, 2017). The results of the National Census of 2021 showed that nearly a quarter of families in Poland consisted of a single parent with children. It was observed that the vast majority of families of this type were single mothers

¹ Article in Polish language: https://www.stowarzyszeniefidesetratio.pl/fer/61P_WalA.pdf

(85%). As far as monoparental families with a father are concerned, in 2021 their number increased by 13% in comparison with 2011. However, it is still the rarest family type in Poland, accounting for 3.5% of families in the family structure².

In the light of psychological studies, the family structure type modifies the scope of the grandparent's role and determines the specificity of the interpersonal relationship between grandparents and grandchildren. In intact families the members of a nuclear family tend to come to mutual agreement on their coherent system of meanings, referring to beliefs, traditions and values, which results in an increase of significance of the family as a group to which an individual belongs. Grandchildren have two couples of grandparents, who, especially in their childhood, often cooperate with each other while sharing care of them. In patchwork families (comp. Burkacka, 2017) children belong to more than one family community, and this kind of belonging is not clearly determined. Grandchildren have a few couples of grandparents, who neither always know each other nor cooperate while taking care of them (Walęcka-Matyja, 2009). As a result of a divorce, separation or death of a spouse, the previous family structure falls apart, turning into a monoparental family (comp. Burkacka, 2017), most often with the mother. There are different reasons of this phenomenon, including the fact that the courts more often award custody of children to women (Suwada, 2020). Family breakdown not only contributes to the change of its situation in the formal and legal aspect but also affects the relationships with grandparents. The circumstances of the crisis of the previous family model can strengthen the relationships with the maternal grandparents whereas, at the same time, the relationships with the paternal grandparents tend to become weaker (Napora, 2019a).

In the related literature, there are two perspectives to be found, which define the role of the family structure in the process of children upbringing and socialization. Many of the studies refer to emphasizing challenges in performing the educational function

in monoparental families (Kuzdak, 2018; Stahl, 2020). On the other hand, in some other studies the authors indicate that a monoparental family does not perform the educational functions less effectively than a family consisting of two biological parents (Gawda, 2018; Walęcka-Matyja, Krawczyk, 2022). One of the factors facilitating a monoparental family the proper performance of family tasks and functions is the provided social support. A single parent can often rely on the social and emotional support coming from the closest people – their own parents. The research results confirm that in the situation of a marriage breakdown, it is the grandparents who try to guarantee stability and security to the whole family system and especially to their grandchildren. Support provided by the extended family often buffers the direct and indirect effects of stressful life situations, enabling more optimistic response to the new circumstances. While helping the single mother, the grandparents give her an opportunity to take up activities in many areas of life, including the professional sphere, which has a preventive effect, reducing the risk of social exclusion and enhancing the well-being of the mother and the child (Napora, 2019b). It has been found that the grandparents' emotional bond with their grandchildren reduces the risk of the worsening of the children's problems in the sphere of their social functioning. Some interesting research results referring to the issue of the emotional bond between grandparents and grandchildren coming from families with a diversified structure indicate a difference in this respect between American and European grandchildren. It has been noticed that in case of European grandchildren, they reported a stronger emotional bond with their grandparents while living in monoparental families. On the other hand, American grandchildren declared a stronger emotional bond with their grandparents when they lived in complete families (Duflos, Giraudeau, 2022).

It has been proved that in families where one of the biological parents is emotionally or/and physically inaccessible, the relationships with the biological grandparents, characterized by kindness and stability,

2 *Narodowy Spis Powszechny Ludności i Mieszkań 2021 Rodziny w Polsce w świetle wyników NSP 2021*. Warszawa (2023). (From:) <https://stat.gov.pl/spisy-powszechne/nsp-2021/nsp-2021-wyniki-ostateczne/rodziny-w-polsce-w-swietle-wynikow-nsp-2021,7,2.html> (access: 07.12.2024).

can be one of the more important relationships in the life of adolescents. Interpersonal relationships with them expand the circle of social experiences and create an opportunity for the young people to get better educational achievements (Wałęcka-Matyja, Napora, 2022). They also contribute to soothing anxiety, being an invaluable source of care and support, especially when a single parent has to spend a lot of time at work. Therefore, a hypothesis can be formulated that grandparents, who gift their grandchildren with their „grandparents’ love”, compensate them for their emotional orphanhood (Attar-Schwartz, Tan, Buchanan, 2009). The research results indicate the occurrence of positive correlations between the assessment of the relationship with the closest grandparent (mostly grandmother) as mentoring ones. These relationships are connected with the fact of understanding the situation by grandparents from the perspective of a grandchild and facilitating the synthesis of identity of the persons who are entering adulthood (Michałek-Kwiecień, 2023).

Grandparents, perceived as “the parents of our times”, play an important role in making choices by their grandchildren as regards life values and life goals, shaping beliefs, moral principles, attitudes towards love and marriage, work ethic and educational orientation (Appelt, 2019; Michałek-Kwiecień, 2024). Values, which refer to the goals and the ways how to achieve them, are passed on by grandparents in the process of upbringing, while playing together, talking about different issues, which with time more and more often concern grandchildren’s experiences, as well as doing joint actions aimed at solving life problems. Values, understood as a carrier of the culture internalization process, cause the fact that a diversified approach to the socialization of women and men may determine differences in ascribing meanings to individual values. According to some psychological studies, women obtain a higher intensity of average scores for community values, related to care of other people and the need to shape and maintain emotional relationships, whereas for men, it is the values connected with subjectivity, activeness and resourcefulness that seem more

typical (Gerszta, Świdarska, Zalewska-Łunkiewicz, Obidziński, Ryś, Hamer, 2022). In some studies of familism³ it has been found that in groups of women and men (N = 1480; 960 women and 520 men; aged 18-55+ years) there were statistically significant differences in all familism dimensions, except for the scale of family support. Men obtained higher mean scores in the dimensions of respect, religion and material success and achievements whereas the mean scores in the dimension of individualism were higher in the group of women (Wałęcka-Matyja, 2022). One can also observe differentiation in respect of familism dimensions in the groups of people selected according to age. In the group of people in late adulthood, the values connected with respect for the family and the related responsibilities, family support, belief in spiritual power and material success were characterized by the highest intensity in comparison with the groups of people in middle and early adulthood (Wałęcka-Matyja, Janicka, 2021). Family specialists agree that for the oldest family members not only are they important dimensions of family values, but also it is vital to pass them on to young people in the process of intergenerational transmission (Michałek-Kwiecień, 2022). That plays a significant role in strengthening family bonds. A good example can be the results of a study in which it was found that a high intensity of grandparents’ religiousness was related to a closer bond with their grandchildren (Bengston, Copen, Putney, Silberstein, 2009).

Summing up, it is believed that grandparents taking up different activities, such as transmission of family values, traditions and cultural knowledge, provision of widely-understood financial and emotional support as well as care of grandchildren will strengthen family bonds and ensure a better life quality of the whole family system (Kołążyk, 2020). The analysis of literature devoted to scientific discussions of the relational aspect of the functioning of grandparents and grandchildren, especially the ones in early adulthood, allows for the conclusion that this issue is relatively rarely studied by researchers. Therefore, it was an inspiration for taking up psychological discussions of the

3 Familism is understood as a culture value, whose core is a strong identification with and attachment to the family group and showing family solidarity (Wałęcka-Matyja, Janicka, 2021).

issue of familism and the quality of intergenerational relationships in the perspective of young adults. These discussions were carried out based on the assumptions of the attachment theory (Bowlby, 2007), the systemic theory (comp. de Barbaro, 1999) and the ecological theory (comp. Bronfenbrenner, 1981), regarded by family specialists as theories allowing them to describe and explain the correlations occurring in family systems in the most comprehensive way.

2. Own research

2.1. Aim of study

The aim of the carried out psychological study was to determine the familism dimensions and the intensity of retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents in the groups of young adults from monoparental families with the mother and complete families. Furthermore, estimations were made as to correlations between the familism dimensions and the intensity of retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents. Three research questions were formulated.

1. Do familism dimensions have differentiated intensity levels in the groups of young adults from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families?
2. Does the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents have differentiated intensity levels in the groups of young adults from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families?
3. Are there any correlations between familism dimensions and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents?

Based on the related literature, the following research hypotheses were formulated.

Hypothesis 1. There is differentiation as regards familism dimensions in the groups of young women and men from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families.

Hypothesis 2. Young women from monoparental families with the mother will assess the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather till their age of twelve more positively than the ones coming from complete families.

Hypothesis 3. Young men from monoparental families with the mother will assess the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather till their age of twelve more positively than the ones coming from complete families.

Hypothesis 4. There are correlations between familism dimensions and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents in the surveyed groups of young women and men from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families.

2.2. Surveyed persons

The study included 217 people in early adulthood ($M = 23.46$; $SD = 2.57$; comp. Brzezińska, Appelt, Ziółkowska, 2015), coming from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families, raised in cooperation with the maternal grandparents. In the related literature we can find some evidence confirming the thesis that in the situation of the parents' divorce, it is mostly the grandparents who provide unconditional support and understanding to their grandchildren, without judging the situation (Soliz, 2008). In the retrospective research conducted on young adults from monoparental families with the mother, it was proved that in case of a divorce the contacts with the maternal grandparents, especially with the grandmother, become more intensified (Napora, 2019). That constituted a premise for making a decision to consider this criterion as significant in the purposive sampling of the surveyed persons. In the process of assessing the research material, while considering whether the criteria of sampling and the completeness of information were fulfilled, a part of the material was omitted due to methodological reasons. Finally, 196 scores were accepted to be statistically developed. In the surveyed sample there were 92 people coming from monoparental families with the mother (42.4%) and 125 people from complete families (57.6%). From monoparental

families with the mother there were 53 (58%) women and 39 men (42%). From complete families there were 70 women (56%) and 55 men (44%). The vast majority of the surveyed persons from monoparental families indicated a divorce ($n = 61$; 66,3%) as the reason of the family breakdown. Other reasons were connected with the father's death ($n = 13$; 14,1%) or the parents' separation ($n = 5$; 5,5%). The remaining, undefined, reasons were indicated by 13 persons (14,1%). The percentage shares of the examined women and men were comparable, respectively 56.7% ($n = 123$) and 43.3% ($n = 94$). The majority of the respondents declared living in the city ($n = 184$; 84,8%) whereas there were 33 respondents living in the country (15,2%). The most commonly declared education level was university education ($n = 112$; 51,6%) and secondary education ($n = 101$; 46,5%). Few respondents declared vocational education ($n = 1$; 0,5%) and primary education ($n = 3$; 1,4%). Referring to the distance

from their place of residence at the age of 12 to their grandparents' homes, the majority of the respondents said that they had lived approximately 15 km from their grandmothers ($n = 171$; 78,8%) and from their grandfathers ($n = 161$; 74,2%) (tab. 1).

The respondents also estimated how often they had spent time with their grandmother and the grandfather in the period up till the age of 12. It turned out that 138 of the surveyed young adults had seen their grandmother a few times a week (63,6%) whereas the number of the respondents who had seen their grandfather a few times a week was 102 (47%) (tab. 2).

2.3. Procedure

The psychological study had a cross-sectional, quantitative and self-report nature. It lasted 30 minutes. It was conducted with the CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interview) technique, designed to carry out quantitative measurements using the Internet sites

Table 1. The assessment of how far the respondents lived from their grandparents in their childhood, broken up by gender ($n = 217$)

Gender	Woman ($n = 123$)		Man ($n = 94$)	
	N	%	N	%
Distance from place of residence to grandmother's place				
Distance approx. 15 km	100	81.3	71	75.5
Distance approx. 15-50 km	14	11.4	15	16
Distance approx. 100-200 km	6	4.9	3	3.2
Distance 200-500 km	1	0.8	4	4.3
Distance bigger than 500 km	2	1.1	1	1.1
Distance from place of residence to grandfather's place				
Distance approx. 15 km	99	80.5	62	66
Distance approx. 15-50 km	15	12.2	18	19.1
Distance approx. 100-200 km	5	4.1	4	4.3
Distance 200-500 km	1	0.8	8	8.5
Distance bigger than 500 km	3	2.4	2	2.1

Source: author's own work.

Table 2. The assessment of how often the respondents spent their time with their grandparents in their childhood, broken up by gender of the respondents ($n = 217$)

Gender	Woman ($n = 123$)		Man ($n = 94$)	
	N	%	N	%
Time spent with grandmother				
A few times a week	83	67.5	55	58.5
Once a week	20	16.3	20	21.3
Once a month	10	8.1	10	10.6
Once in half a year	7	5.7	7	7.4
More rarely	3	2.4	2	2.1
Time spent with grandfather				
A few times a week	66	53.7	36	38.3
Once a week	18	14.6	22	23.4
Once a month	17	13.8	12	12.8
Once in half a year	10	8.1	13	13.8
More rarely	12	9.8	11	11.7

Source: author's own work.

(Morawski, 2021)⁴. The respondents were informed about the purpose of the study, its voluntary nature and the possibility to stop it in any time without consequences and that its results will be used in a scientific work. The collected data were analysed using the specialist software IBM SPSS Statistics 28, licensed by University of Łódź. In the statistical analyses the following statistical methods were used: Student's *t* test, exploratory factor analysis and Pearson's correlation coefficient (*r*). The adopted level of statistical significance was regarded as acceptable if the calculated test probability *p* was $p < 0,05$.

2.4. Research tools

The material for analyses was collected by means of four psychological tools with good psychometric properties, i.e. the Familism Scale, the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother, the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather, the Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale and the questionnaire. The psychological tools were uploaded to the internet using the Microsoft Forms application.

2.4.1. Familism Scale

The Familism Scale (FS) is a tool developed by Katarzyna Walęcka-Matyja (2020) on the basis of the MACVS Scale (Mexican American Cultural Values Scales for Adolescents and Adults, Knight, Gonzales, Saenz, Bonds, German, Deardorff et al., 2010). This scale is designed for adults and allows for the measurement of five aspects of family values, i.e. family support, respect, religion, material success and achievements, individualism. This tool consists of 44 statements and the respondent is expected to give their answer on a 5-grade Likert's scale, where „1” means „I definitely disagree” and „5” means „I definitely agree”. The Familism Scale has very good psychometric properties. The values of Cronbach's α coefficient are following: for the scale of respect – 0.91; family support – 0.70; religion –

0.95; individualism – 0.63 and material success and achievements – 0.87 (Walęcka-Matyja, 2020). In the conducted study, the analysis of reliability revealed the following values of Cronbach's α calculated for familism dimensions: respect 0.71; family support 0.57; religion 0.40; individualism 0.75 and material success and achievements 0.78.

2.4.2. Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale

The Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale (URCS) is a Polish version translated from the original tool URCS (Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale; Dible, Levine and Park, 2012). URCS as developed by Monika Wróbel and co-workers (2014) is designed for adults and measures interpersonal closeness in various social relationships. The tool consists of 12 items and each statement refers to the interpersonal relationship of a surveyed person with a person X (partner, friend, employer and others.). In case of this study, the person X was the maternal grandmother and the maternal grandfather of the respondent. A respondent's task is to assess their agreement to the statements on a 7-grade Likert's scale, where „1” means „I definitely disagree” and „7” means „I definitely agree”. The Polish version of URCS with mean values $M = 5.71$, standard deviation values $SD = 1.10$ and left-sided skewness of the results distribution is similar to the original scale. The reliability analysis of URCS showed that Cronbach's α amounted to 0.94 (Wróbel et al., 2014).

2.4.3. Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother/Grandfather

Two psychological tools were developed by the authors of the study to measure the young adult grandchildren's retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother/grandfather in their childhood (till the age of 12 years). It was assumed that the most favourable assessments of the grandparents' commitment were connected

4 The research was conducted by a master's seminarian.

with the opinions of the grandchildren concerning the earliest years of life and the period of attending primary school. In the later period, these relationships become weaker (Hurlock, 1985). The inspiration for this study was the „Grandparent’s Survey” providing information on, among other issues, the perception of emotional closeness with the grandparents from the perspective of teenagers (Attar-Schwartz, Tan, Buchanan, 2009). After receiving consent from the authors to develop the Polish version, it was translated into Polish. Taking into account some earlier research findings, it was assumed that the quality of the interpersonal relationship depends on the gender of grandparents and grandchildren (MaloneBeach, Hakoyama, Arnold, 2018; Michałek-Kwiecień, 2020). The presented reason was the basis to develop two versions of the scale, one for assessing retrospectively the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother and the other for assessing retrospectively the interpersonal relationship with the grandfather. Each version initially consisted of 17 items.

In order to estimate the usefulness of the basic scale, planned in two versions, and to determine the statistical properties of the individual scale items, an online pilot test was carried out with the use of the Microsoft Forms application (comp. Hornowska, 2023). The duration time of the survey was approximately 20 minutes (completing the questionnaire, the pilot versions of the scale for the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother and the scale for the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandfather as well as the Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale). The collected data were analysed by means of the IBM SPSS Statistics 28 software, licensed by the University of Łódź. The adopted level of significance was $\alpha = 0.05$.

This pilot test included 141 persons in early adulthood, i.e. at the age of 19 – 35 years. Women accounted for 57% of the sample ($n = 81$), men 43% ($n = 60$). The majority of the respondents came from towns with over 150 thousand inhabitants ($n = 67$; 48%). Towns up to 150 thousand inhabitants were represented by 46 people (33%) whereas 28 respondents (20%) declared rural background. The surveyed persons most often had secondary ($n = 91$; 65%) and

university education ($n = 48$; 34%). Few respondents declared vocational education ($n = 2$; 1%). In the surveyed group there were no other types of education declared.

Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother

The Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother included 17 items, to which answers were given on a 5-grade Likert’s scale, where “1” means “No” and “5” “Definitely yes”. Table 3 presents the values of the Kaiser–Mayer–Olkin’s test (KMO) and the Bartlett’s test.

The high value of the KMO index confirmed the validity of use of the factor analysis. With the assumption of the occurrence of correlations between the potential factors, it was possible to isolate a factor using the Principal component analysis (PCA) and to use the OBLIMIN oblique rotation technique. As a result of the undertaken actions in the factor analysis (EFA), one factor was isolated (tab. 4).

Considering the obtained result, it was found that the received factor explained 49% of variance in the variable. The adopted level of the absolute value was 0.4. Due to this fact, two questions which did not fit the criteria of the absolute value were removed from the matrix. They were following: Did your grandmother happen to refuse to take care of You because of her plans (e.g. a planned trip, home duties, professional work, etc.)? (-0.385) and Did, in your opinion, your grandmother allow You to have more freedom than your parents did (e.g. she allowed you

Table 3. The KMO test and the Bartlett’s sphericity test for the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother

KMO measure of adequacy of sampling	0.916
Bartlett’s sphericity tests	
Chi-square approximations	1136.645
df	105
Significance p-value	0.000

Source: author’s own work.

Table 4. Eigenvalues and the total explained variance for the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Sums of squares of loads after rotation		
	total	% variance	% accumulated	total	% variance	% accumulated
1	7.377	49.181	49.181	7.377	49.181	49.181
2	1.175	7.836	57.016			
...
15	0.205	1.368	100.000			

Source: author's own work.

Table 5. The component matrix for the scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother

Items	Component 1
Did your grandmother show You help?	0.846
Were You satisfied with the amount of time your grandmother devoted to You?	0.783
Was your grandmother an authority figure for You?	0.774
Did, in your opinion, your grandmother actively try to satisfy your health-related needs (e.g. she took care of You when You were ill, etc.)?	0.729
Did You feel secure in the care of your grandmother?	0.728
Did your grandmother take an interest in your life (e.g. how You coped at school, what mates You had, how You spent your free time)?	0.723
Did your grandmother show positive feelings to You (e.g. she said she loved You, she was concerned about You, she was proud of You, etc.)?	0.711
Did your grandmother actively try to satisfy your basic needs (e.g. she prepared meals for You, took care of your sleep, etc.)?	0.708
Did your grandmother try to pamper You (e.g. making your favourite dish, giving You presents without an occasion, etc.)?	0.683
Did You share your problems with your grandmother?	0.658
Did You respect your grandmother's attitudes towards the family (e.g. her attitude towards her children/ husband, family celebrations, etc.)?	0.656
Did You enjoy your visits at your grandmother's?	0.655
Do You think that your discussions with your grandmother about her life experience translated to your decisions, acting?	0.651
Did your grandmother have a direct influence on your everyday life in your childhood (e.g. she took care of You when your parents were absent, used her upbringing methods, affected your decisions)?	0.586
Did your parents encourage You to contact your grandmother (e.g. asking You to call your grandmother, to visit her on a free day, etc.)?	0.552

Source: author's own work.

to eat more sweets, to go to bed later, cooked your favourite dishes, etc.)? (0.382). Thereby, the 15-item version of the scale was adopted (tab. 5).

The adopted version of the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother is a one-factor tool and allows us to assess the quality of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother in the retrospective perspective

(till the age of 12 years) of the grandchild in early adulthood. The respondent's task is to refer to 15 items using a 5-grade Likert's scale, where „1” means „No” and „5” means „Definitely yes”. The higher the score on the scale, the more positive the assessment of the relationship is. In the conducted study the analysis of the reliability estimated for this tool was Cronbach's α with the value of 0.92.

Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather

In order to determine the psychometric properties of the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather, a methodological procedure analogical to the above described scale for the grandmother was conducted. Therefore, the recurring elements of this description were omitted. The Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother consists of the same 15 items which are included in the version for the grandmother. The only difference is that the word “grandmother” was replaced with the word “grandfather”. In order to justify the use of the factor analysis for the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather, the Kaiser–Mayer–Olkin’s index (KMO) and the Bartlett’s test were applied (tab. 6).

The high KMO index confirmed the validity of using the factor analysis. One factor was isolated by means of the Principal component analysis (PCA) and the OBLIMIN oblique rotation technique (tab. 7), which explained 57% of variance in the variable.

The adopted version of the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather is a one-factor tool and allows us to assess the quality of the interpersonal relationship with the grandfather in the retrospective perspective (till the age of 12 years) of the grandchild in early adulthood. The respondent’s task is to refer to 15 items using a 5-grade Likert’s scale, where „1” means „No” and „5” means „Definitely yes”. The higher the

Table 6. The KMO test and the Bartlett’s sphericity test for the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather

KMO measure of adequacy of sampling	0.938
Bartlett’s sphericity tests	
Chi-square approximations	1421.185
df	105
Significance p-value	0.000

Source: author’s own work.

score on the scale, the more positive the assessment of the relationship is. In the conducted study the analysis of the reliability estimated for this tool was Cronbach’s α with the value of 0.96.

For both versions of the scale, the analysis of measurement validity was carried out, using the Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale (Wróbel et al., 2014). In the conducted study, the reliability analysis estimated for this tool revealed the Cronbach’s α value of 0.96 – for the interpersonal closeness with the Grandmother and 0.98 – for the interpersonal closeness with the Grandfather. The analyses were conducted for the whole sample taking part in the pilot test ($n = 141$) with the use of the Pearson’s r coefficient. Some positive correlations in the expected direction were found. The Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother was strongly correlated with the assessment of interpersonal closeness with the Grandmother ($r = 0.738$; $p < 0.01$) and a little less strongly correlated with the assessment of interpersonal closeness with the Grandfather ($r = 0.365$; $p < 0.05$). On the other hand, the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather

Table 7. Eigenvalues and the total explained variance for the Scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Sums of squares of loads after rotation		
	total	% variance	% accumulated	total	% variance	% accumulated
1	8.560	57.067	57.067	8.560	57.067	57.067
2	0.990	6.597	63.663			
...
15	0.164	1.090	100.000			

Source: author’s own work.

was strongly correlated with the assessment of interpersonal closeness with the Grandfather ($r = 0.689$; $p < 0.01$) and a little less strongly correlated with the assessment of interpersonal closeness with the Grandmother ($r = 0.354$; $p < 0.01$). In this way, the validity of both versions of the scale designed for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother and the Grandfather was confirmed. The validity understood as a degree of compliance with which the developed tool measures what it is supposed to measure (comp. Hornowska, 2023). Due to the preliminary nature of the research findings, it is emphasized that there is a necessity of taking up and more closely studying the issue of the validity of both the scales for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandparents in further studies.

2.4.4. The sociodemographic questionnaire

In order to collect data of a sociodemographic nature, the questionnaire was used. It included questions concerning: the respondent's gender, age, place of residence, education, structure of the family of origin, maternal grandparent's gender, frequency of contacts with the maternal grandparents and the distance between the respondent's place of resi-

dence and the maternal grandparents' place of residence. The variables included in the questionnaire were selected based on the research results showing that in the perspective of the grandchildren in early adulthood the intergenerational relationships are determined by many sociodemographic factors. The most important of them are: the grandparents and the grandchildren's gender, the grandparents' origin and the frequency of contacts, the distance between the grandparents' place of residence and the grandchildren's place of residence, the grandparents' age and health (MaloneBeach et al., 2018).

3. Results

In the first place the descriptive statistics of the studied psychological variables were estimated (tab. 8).

Considering the results from table 8, it was found that in the Familism Scale the respondents obtained the highest intensity of the results in the respect dimension ($M = 39.57$). The distribution of variables can be described as left-sided and more flattened than normal. On the other hand the lowest intensity of the results was observed in the religion dimension ($M = 16.28$). The distribution of variables can be described as right-sided and flattened in comparison

Table 8. The descriptive statistics of the studied psychological variables (n = 217)

Variable	M	SD	Sk	Kurt.	Min. – Max.
Familism Scale					
respect	39.57	9.755	-0.185	-0.574	16-61
individualism	20.32	2.678	-0.232	-0.127	11-25
religion	16.28	7.879	0.460	-0.899	7-35
family support	21.22	3.950	-0.321	-0.154	10-30
material success and achievements	29.37	6.987	0.503	0.286	13-54
URCS Grandmother	51.56	20.289	-0.386	-0.840	12-84
URCS Grandfather	43.56	22.016	0.106	-1.065	12-84
The scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother	60.61	10.467	-0.839	0.018	28-75
The scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather	49.79	16.897	-0.599	-0.556	15-75

M – mean, SD – standard deviation, Sk – skewness, Kurt. – kurtosis, Min. – Max. – minimum and maximum values.
Source: author's own work.

to normal. Furthermore, it was noticed that the respondents got a higher intensity of the results in the Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale URCS) with the grandmother ($M = 51.56$) and the scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother ($M = 60.61$) than in the Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale (URCS) for the grandfather ($M = 43.56$) and in the scale for the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandfather ($M = 49.79$).

3.1. Familism in the perspective of young adults

On the basis of the Central Limit Theorem, the normality of distribution of the analysed psychological variables was assumed. Next, the assumption of variance homogeneity was checked by means of the Levene's test. This assumption was met – variance homogeneity was confirmed for each examined variable. On this basis, the Student's t test was applied for independent groups in order to check whether there is differentiation in familism dimensions between the

groups of young women from monoparental families with the mother and the ones from complete families and if there is differentiation between the groups of young men from monoparental families with the mother and the ones from complete families (tab. 9).

Considering the obtained research results (tab. 9), no differentiation was found with regard to familism dimensions both in the compared groups of young women ($p < 0.05$) and in the compared groups of young men ($p < 0.05$). Hypothesis 1 was not confirmed.

3.2. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather in the perspective of young adults

An attempt was made to determine if there is differentiation in respect of the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather in the groups of women from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families as well as in the groups of men

Table 9. Familism dimensions in the groups of women from monoparental families and the ones from complete families ($n = 123$) and in groups of men from monoparental families and the ones from complete families ($n = 94$)

Variable	Women from monoparental families ($n = 53$)		Women from complete families ($n = 70$)		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
respect	38.75	10.637	37.66	9.461	-0.604	0.547
family support	21.42	4.465	20.23	3.707	-1.609	0.110
religion	15.77	7.665	16.80	8.493	0.692	0.490
material success and achievements	27.23	5.427	27.17	6.297	-0.051	0.960
individualism	21.06	2.749	20.10	2.783	-1.898	0.060
Variable	Men from monoparental families ($n = 39$)		Men from complete families ($n = 55$)		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
respect	40.64	10.202	42.02	8.469	0.713	0.478
religion	15.97	8.074	16.31	7.282	0.210	0.834
family support	21.23	4.631	22.27	2.851	1.247	0.217
individualism	20.18	2.910	19.98	2.198	-0.358	0.722
material success and achievements	32.15	7.932	32.27	6.857	0.078	0.938

M – mean, SD – standard deviation, t – Student's t test statistics, p – significance level
Source: author's own work.

Table 10. Differentiation in respect of the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather in the groups of women from monoparental families and from complete families ($n = 123$) and in the groups of men from monoparental families and from complete families ($n = 94$)

Variable	Women from monoparental families ($n = 53$)		Women from complete families ($n = 70$)		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother	64.81	8.927	58.86	11.050	-3.209	0.002
Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather	54.58	15.180	46.14	16.806	-2.875	0.005
Variable	Men from monoparental families ($n = 39$)		Men from complete families ($n = 55$)		t	p
	M	SD	M	SD		
Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother	58.15	10.294	60.53	10.356	1.097	0.275
Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather	51.13	14.087	48.87	19.568	-0.650	0.517

M – mean, SD – standard deviation, t – Student's t test statistics, p – significance level

Source: author's own work.

from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families (tab. 10). Table 10 presents differentiation in respect of the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather in the groups of women from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families as well as in the groups of men from monoparental families with the mother and from complete families.

The received research results show that there is differentiation in respect of the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother in the compared groups of women ($p < 0.05$). It was found that higher mean scores in this respect were received by the women from monoparental families with the mother in comparison to the ones from complete families ($M = 64.81$; $SD = 8.927$ vs. $M = 58.86$; $SD = 11.050$) $t(123) = -3.209$, $p = 0.002$, $d = 10.192$. Considering the results in respect of the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandfather in the compared groups of young women, some statistically significant differences were also found ($p < 0.05$). Young women coming from monoparental families with

the mother received on average higher scores in comparison with young women from complete families ($M = 54.58$; $SD = 15.180$ vs. $M = 46.14$; $SD = 16.806$) $t(123) = -2.875$, $p = 0.005$, $d = 16.126$. The obtained results confirm hypothesis 2. At the same time, the obtained results do not allow us to conclude that there was any differentiation in respect of the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather in the compared groups of men ($p > 0.05$). Such being the case, hypothesis 3 was not confirmed.

3.3. Familism and the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather

Looking at the correlations between familism dimensions and the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather, we divided the respondents into the groups of young women from monoparental families with the mother and the ones from complete families and the groups of young men from monoparental

Table 11. Correlations between the variables in the group of women from monoparental families with the mother (n = 53)

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. respect	-						
2. family support	0.716**	-					
3. religion	0.610**	0.406**	-				
4. material success and achievements	0.247	0.033	-0.094	-			
5. individualism	-0.267	-0.166	-0.375**	-0.038	-		
6. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother	0.404**	0.312*	0.284*	0.132	-0.134	-	0.738**
7. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather	0.117	0.213	0.018	-0.026	-0.102	0.354**	-

n = 53, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01. Source: author's own work.

Table 12. Correlations between the variables in the group of men from monoparental families with the mother (n = 39)

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. respect	-						
2. family support	0.773**	-					
3. religion	0.602**	0.530**	-				
4. material success and achievements	0.303	0.101	0.224	-			
5. individualism	-0.553**	-0.466**	-0.505**	0.001	-		
6. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother	0.095	0.059	0.111	-0.252	-0.181	-	0.751**
7. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather	-0.090	0.025	-0.121	-0.039	-0.047	0.397*	-

n = 39, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01. Source: author's own work.

families with the mother and the ones from complete families. Table 11 shows correlations between the analysed variables in the group of young women from monoparental families with the mother.

Table 12 shows correlations between the analysed variables in the group of young men from monoparental families with the mother.

Table 13 shows correlations between the analysed variables in the group of young women from complete families.

Table 14 shows correlations between the analysed variables in the group of young men from complete families.

Analysing the correlations between familism dimensions and the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother in the group of women from monoparental families with the mother, some weak positive correlations were revealed with the values from the so-called traditional trend, such as respect, family support and religion. On the other hand, in this group of women there were no correlations between familism dimensions and the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandfather. In the group of men from monoparental families no statistically significant correlations were found

Table 13. Correlations between the variables in the group of women from complete families (n = 70)

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. respect	-						
2. family support	0.766**	-					
3. religion	0.620**	0.494**	-				
4. material success and achievements	0.244*	-0.002	0.216	-			
5. individualism	-0.161	-0.021	-0.161	-0.187	-		
6. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother	-0.069	0.031	-0.133	-0.226	0.011	-	0.695**
7. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather	0.006	-0.023	-0.072	-0.054	0.020	0.453**	-

n = 70, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01. Source: author's own work.

Table 14. Correlations between the variables in the group of men from complete families (n = 55)

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. respect	-						
2. family support	0.673**	-					
3. religion	0.422**	0.225	-				
4. material success and achievements	0.532**	0.346**	0.273*	-			
5. individualism	0.222	0.214	0.033	0.500**	-		
6. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandmother	0.056	0.131	-0.019	-0.162	-0.013	-	0.642**
7. Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the Grandfather	0.267*	0.238	0.053	0.077	-0.161	0.453**	-

n = 55, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01. Source: author's own work.

between familism dimensions and the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather. In the group of young women from complete families there were no statistically significant correlations between familism dimensions and the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather. In the group of men from complete families we did not obtain any statistically significant correlations between familism dimensions and the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandmother whereas a weak positive correlation was revealed between the respect dimension and

the Retrospective Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship with the grandfather. The obtained results confirm hypothesis 4.

4. Discussion

Nowadays more and more people tend to delay assuming the roles of both parents and grandparents. Modern grandparents are often professionally active, able-bodied, not fitting into the common stereotypes connected with old age. As Leopold and Skopek (2015) indicate, Polish women take the role of a grandmother at the age of 47 and men become

grandfathers when they are 51. Grandparents, who are active in many areas of life, also play an important role in the functioning of the family, providing support in difficult moments, cooperating in the grandchildren's socialization process and ensuring the feeling of stability (Napora, 2019b). One of such moments can be the family crisis resulting from the parents' divorce. It is when the interpersonal relationship between the grandparents and the grandchildren becomes particularly vital.

In this psychological study, the aim was to check whether, depending on the family structure, there is differentiation in the intensity of familism dimensions and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather in the groups of young adults and if there are statistically significant correlations between the analysed variables. The collected empirical material allowed us to verify the assumptions of three hypotheses. In the first one it was expected that familism dimensions would have different intensity levels in the groups of young women and men selected according to the structure of the family of origin. Based on the obtained research results, no differentiation was observed with regard to familism dimensions both in the compared groups of young women and the ones of young men. The received results allow for the conclusion that the surveyed adults referred to family dimensions in a similar way, and the structure of the family of origin was not a differentiating factor in this respect. With this, hypothesis 1 did not get confirmation in the author's own study. This finding is different from the ones obtained in other psychological studies (comp. Walęcka-Matyja, Krawczyk, 2022), in which young women from monoparental families considered material achievements and financial success to be more important than the ones from complete families. The identified difference in the results of the research carried out in the groups of young adults may encourage researchers to further probe into this subject matter.

The study of the research results allows us to assume an attitude to the second hypothesis, in which the authors expected to find that the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents would be differentiated in

the perspective of young adults, depending on the structure of the family of origin. The obtained results allow us to formulate the conclusion that women from monoparental families with the mother retrospectively assessed the quality of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother and the grandfather higher than women from complete families. That confirmed the assumptions of hypothesis 2. However, there were no statistically significant differences as regards the retrospective assessment of the quality of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents in the compared groups of men, which did not allow us to confirm hypothesis 3. The obtained results are congruent with the ones received so far (comp. Michałek-Kwiecień, 2020; Michałek-Kwiecień, 2023; Napora, 2019a), where it was proved that the maternal grandmother was identified as emotionally closer than the grandfather, and that the correlation between the grandchild's gender and the gender of the closest grandparent was also significant. According to the studies of a retrospective nature, conducted in the groups of young adults, it was young women who more often regarded their grandmother as their closest grandparent in comparison to young men (MaloneBeach et al., 2018). Referring to the last, fourth hypothesis indicating that there might be some correlations between familism dimensions and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents in the surveyed groups of young adults, we shall admit that the results confirm it. The findings quite clearly show that the most numerous correlations between familism dimensions connected with traditional values (respect, family support, religion) and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother occurred in the group of women from monoparental families with the mother. This means that in the group of women from monoparental families the higher the assessment of the quality of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother was, the stronger the need was to maintain proper intergenerational relationships and to emphasize the importance of the parents' opinions in shaping their children's attitudes and helping them to make decisions (respect). These women were also

more willing to support their close relatives (family support), and to assign a greater significance to the spiritual sphere (religion) than the women from complete families. The results obtained in the author's own study confirmed the role played by grandmothers in family systems. The explanation of it can be perceived in different perspectives, which most often include theories emphasizing the commitment and responsibility of women for keeping the family together or evolutionary theories highlighting reproductive strategies taken by women (MaloneBeach et al., 2018). No statistically significant correlations were found between familism dimensions and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandparents in the group of men from monoparental families. It can be believed that the transmission of family values was not as clear as in case of the women from monoparental families. The obtained result can be explained in the light of some psychological studies in this respect. It was found that it is girls who more often meet with their grandparents than boys (Jappens, Van Bavel, 2016; Napora, 2022). Adolescent girls tend to assess the support received from their grandparents more positively than boys and more often look for informational support, e.g. life advice from them in comparison with boys (Napora, 2018). The results obtained in the groups of women and men from complete families do not indicate the occurrence of any statistically significant correlations between familism dimensions and the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother or the grandfather (in the group of women) or with the grandmother (in the group of men). On the other hand, they allow for the statement that in the group of men from complete families a higher retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandfather was correlated with a greater intensity of the need to maintain proper intergenerational

relationships and to emphasize the importance of the parents' opinions in shaping their children's attitudes and helping them to make decisions (respect). The obtained results are congruent with other research findings, which allow us to formulate the conclusion that paternal parents get more positive assessments of closeness and frequency of contacts in the perspective of grandchildren from complete families. On the other hand, in families with single mothers, these assessments are significantly lower. In families of this type we can observe an increase in the importance of the role of a maternal grandmother (Napora, 2016).

The conducted study was not free from limitations, among which we can, for example, include the fact that the referred results of the retrospective assessment should be read through the prism of the specifics of a self-descriptive study, where data are provided by respondents themselves. Non-probabilistic sampling of participants limits room for interpretation of the results and the correlational research model does not entitle us to formulate conclusions concerning the directions of the so identified correlations between variables. Furthermore, there is still an open perspective of testing the model on representative samples of young adults from other types of families. e.g. blended and foster ones. Despite the mentioned difficulties, it is regarded that the results of the conducted analyses can be useful and will contribute to the intensification of preventive actions designed for young people and families in crisis situations. The author's scales, i.e. the scale of the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandmother and the scale of the retrospective assessment of the interpersonal relationship with the grandfather can still be developed in further studies and used in the future to better describe and understand intergenerational relationships and identify their quality as one of significant determinants of young people's development.

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