

THE INFLUENCE OF INTENSITY OF MUSICAL INVOLVEMENT AND TYPE OF MUSIC ON MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

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Background

According to former observations and questionnaire studies, the degree to which one can be involved in music is characteristic of a person. There are differences between high and low musical involvement considering music preferences, music-listening customs, and the role of music in everyday life. Their experiences while listening to music should be different, too.

Aims

The aims of the present research were to discover whether the experiences of music-listening show differences depending on the intensity of musical involvement and type of music.

Method

First, intensity of musical involvement was measured by the Musical Involvement Scale among 400 university students in Hungary. High and low-level participants (N=120) were chosen for the experiments. Subjects listened to one of three musical pieces (a classical, an easy-listening or a techno-music) alone, in a darkened room. They reported about their experiences in a free report, in

an interview, and they filled in the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory. Reports were content-analysed by software and compared considering intensity of involvement and type of music by means of MANOVA test, like the results of PCI.

Results

We found significant differences between high and low participants and between the three musical pieces, too. Experiences were individually different, but within groups there were great similarities. High-level participants reported trance-like experiences much more frequently than did low-level participants and PCI showed greater changes in consciousness. Low-level participants reported about relaxation in most cases. Liking of music influenced the experiences of low-level participants only.

Conclusions

Musical experiences are individually different, but show great consistence depending on the intensity of musical involvement and type of music.