

EMERGENT PERSPECTIVES OF EXERCISE AND SPORT PSYCHOLOGY IN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA (Abstract)

Félix Guillén*

The more adapted way to study the development of a scientific discipline and more concretely of a scope to a discipline concrete, like could be the Psychology of the Exercise and Sport, is through an analysis of the state in which is the research, the scientific diffusion and the professional scope. In the tactical mission of Europe and Latin America, this analysis could be made comparing their situation as opposed to the one to other geographic or linguistic contexts, or analyzing their own evolution during a period of time. Thus we have considered opportune to analyze the present state in which one is the Psychology of the Exercise and Sport, to the time in which to consider future as the immediate perspective. In the case of Europe, the main problem for its development and therefore to become the world-wide leader is the existing amount of languages, as well as the great division or segmentation of countries, each one of them with totally different realities, which makes difficult clearly its development. In the case of Latin America, the advantage is in having a common language that it agglutinates in Spanish and Portuguese more than 450 million loudspeakers. Nevertheless, it has the difficulty of the small economic development, although also it is certain that in the last years it has progressed considerably, with the contribution and leadership of Spain and Portugal.

Research

At the present time and without (any) doubt the scientific leadership of sport sciences in the world, is in hand of the Anglo-Saxon countries, mainly US, Canada, Australia and to a lesser extent Great Britain. These are setting the standards in the rest of the world, since they indirectly condition and they direct straight or the made works as soon as that they establish the lines to follow. From my point of view, and as we exposed previously, to consolidate the Psychology of the Exercise and Sport in Europe and Latin America, one becomes necessary to establish differentiated lines clearly with respect to the existing ones in the dominant countries. Therefore it is necessary that the researches are characterized for being different. For example, it would be useful qualitative methodologies instead of using abusive quantitative methodologies forms. This does not mean that the quantitative studies give in, but that takes place a more equitable distribution. An example, of this we see it in the great amount of studies

* University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

that exist on the anxiety in the sport, in which we found among other multiple things instruments that indicate the existing levels to us of anxiety, by the deficiency of qualitative studies, we often do not know that concrete aspects are those that are generating that anxiety in concrete sports. Another existing deficiency is the relative one to longitudinal studies, which advises to affect this type of studies. Also we detected the shortage of studies with a cross-cultural character, in which the presumable existing differences in the sport are contemplated. If we analyzed the sport practice we found every day and with enough frequency clear differences between sportsmen of different origins in multiple aspects. The other most important deficiency in the scientific research in the sport, talks about the used gender. In this sense to indicate that in spite of the importance of the female sport, most of the research they are made with subject men. Other aspects that would also have to be treated refer to the creation of new specific instruments of measurement for the sport scope, since there are still blanks in many aspects exist; studies with subjects pertaining to different groups different from the sportsmen, but that is related to the sport, like trainers, parents, referees,...; to as much make emphasis in sports that are not the predominant ones like soccer, basketball, baseball,..., as in sports that have arisen years in the last; news aspects and that responds to the demands of the professionals of the sport. To the margin of new and characteristic that they have the researches is fundamental a suitable scientific diffusion or what is just like they have a great visibility. If something characterizes to the Anglo-Saxon scope it is the repercussion of the works that in her is made, nevertheless it does not happen the same with the scientific diffusion of the European and Latin American accomplishment. As we have already commented must fundamentally to that the media of scientific diffusion are in English, hardly existing ways in other languages. Therefore the sprouting would be necessary of new publications in the different countries from Europe. In the case of Iberoamerica (Latin America, Portugal and Spain), at the present time three scientific journals exist that respond to the requirements of the scientific community.

Finally, to emphasize that irrespective to create publications it is necessary that the same ones present/display certain standards of quality and they are indexed.

