

FaR 2021**International Forum “Freedom and responsibility in pivotal times”****DYNAMICS OF POLITICAL PREFERENCES OF YOUTH IN
KURGAN REGION BASED ON NBICS-CONVERGENCE**

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Abstract

The paper (based on NBICS-convergence) considers the dynamics of political preferences of student youth of Kurgan region based on the results of two sociological surveys (2014 and 2019). While being the most dynamic group, young people directly influence the formation of the political situation in the country, determining its future. This underlines the relevance of this problem in sociology and psychology. Nine questions with nominal responses coincided in two studies, which made it possible to compare the groups by the same answers, but representing different years. Multiple comparison in a sociological or psychological study arises at the intersection of two types of sociological questionnaire variables, when nominal variables considered as external criteria with respect to multiple comparison are used to form the groups for multiple comparison. In the future, these groups are compared according to the interval indicators of the questionnaire. The comparison of 178 nominal groups according to the results of two studies was carried out according to 21 interval variables. The individual results of solving the problem using the author's multiple comparison (generalized version) are given and described in the paper. The results for three interval variables are considered: “Interest in politics” (groups within two questions with nominal responses); “Satisfaction with the voting results in the presidential elections of the Russian Federation” and “Satisfaction with the work of the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin” (groups within the framework of four questions with nominal responses).

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1. Introduction

The study of political preferences of young people is an urgent task of modern sociology and psychology, since young people directly affect the formation of the political situation in the country. At the same time, young people are one of the most socially mobile and dynamic groups and their study allow building certain forecasts for the future.

In recent years, sociology and psychology have studied the peculiarities of political mentality (Erdineeva, 2014), political attitudes among students of various denominational affiliation (Gorbunova, 2014), political values and motivation of students (Morozova, 2019), level of socio-political activity (Kruzhkova et al., 2019), political sentiments (Popova & Lagutin, 2019), transformation of political attitudes and value orientations of the youth (Safonova et al., 2019).

2. Problem Statement

While politics is not a priority for today's youth interests, young learners are interested in political events. Currently, the interest in political events is mainly related to the receipt of information from official sources. In recent years, compared to the beginning of 2014, the real participation of young people in political actions has been sharply falling, and political and civic activity is not a priority interest of the younger generation (Chuev et al., 2017). Therefore, it is interesting to conduct a deeper (not only the percentage of nominal responses) comparative analysis of the survey of student youth with a shift of 5 years, which shows the dynamics of political views and preferences of the younger generation.

3. Research Questions

A comparative analysis of data from pre-crisis (beginning of 2014, 190 respondents) and modern (beginning of 2019, 120 respondents) periods was carried out based on data from two sociological studies of student youth in Kurgan (with samples built according to generally accepted rules of sociology). The results were analyzed in terms of transformations of political preferences of young people, both between interval and nominal data, which are meaningfully coinciding in two sociological studies. If one of the previous papers analyzed the percentage dynamics based on the results of choosing nominal responses in questions with a large number of them. Then, interval results on other questions are now compared among themselves in the general task of multiple comparison, characterizing all groups that are sufficiently representative to solve the problem on nominal responses, representing respondents from both 2014 and 2019.

The two studies coincided with nine nominal responses that are of greatest interest for the multiple comparison demonstrating the dynamics (2014 and 2019) of political preferences of the younger generation. Here are some results of multiple comparison of content-matched nominal groups of respondents representing 2014 and 2019 surveys.

4. Purpose of the Study

The analytical study sets the purpose to conduct two surveys of student youth to make multiple comparison of interval results. Sociological studies were carried out before the international crises around Russia (early 2014) and five years later (early 2019). This demonstrates the transformation of the political views of the younger generation in a rather difficult period of international relations for Russia. This also continues and deepens the analysis of previously presented results in the form of percentages for nominal responses. This paper provides a comparative analysis of interval data of political orientation, when the nominal groups formed not only from nominal responses, but also from two different years of surveys are compared.

5. Research Methods

Multiple comparison (based on NBICS-convergence) tasks in a sociological or psychological study arise primarily at the junction of two types of sociological questionnaire variables (psychological study data), when nominal variables considered as external criteria with respect to multiple comparison are used to form groups for multiple comparison. Interval variables, like the internal characteristics of the formed groups, are the subject of multiple comparison of these groups. The multiple comparison method was originally a structural component of our statistical approach developed to construct empirical psychological typologies with external criteria (monograph of Basimov M.M. "Multiple comparison in sociological studies").

To solve the problem, a generalized version of a multiple comparison was used, when after the procedure of standardizing each interval parameter for the entire set of data considered in the problem, all values of the relations "interval parameter $X(i)$ for the nominal group $G(j)$ " are compared with each other using a Student statistical criterion. In total, $m \cdot k$ values for m indicators and k groups are compared, a relative weight matrix is built, after which subsets of the same indicators or groups are selected from it for further verbal description of the results.

6. Findings

The results of multiple comparison within the interval scales of sociological questionnaires appear to be particularly interesting when the nominal response groups presented by the respondents of two compared years are considered within a single task of multiple comparison (Kurgan, 2014, 2019). Thus, the nominal response groups of 2014 and 2019 are compared simultaneously and comparable results are obtained in a single system of measuring relative weights. So, 178 nominal groups of 21 interval variables were compared. For example, let us consider individual parts from a structural (sample of groups belonging to the same question with nominal responses) distribution of groups within three interval parameters.

For the interval variable "Interest in politics" two sets (by questions) of nominal groups are discussed below; for the interval variable "Satisfaction with the voting results in the presidential elections of the Russian Federation" – four sets of nominal groups; for the interval variable "Satisfaction with the work of

the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin” – four sets of nominal groups. The tables show only pronounced results with a relative weight by more than 1500 (determined by the dimension of the problem).

I. Interval variable “Interest in politics”

Let us consider the results for the groups of respondents formed according to two questions with nominal responses.

1. Nominal Response Groups

Table 1. Assessment of personal political activism

Nominal groups	Relative weight
14G-03 Signed collective appeals, petitions	+3193
14G-04 Participated in the elections campaign	+2811
19G-10 Politics annoys me	-1938
19G-09 I don't care about politics	-2812
14G-07 Participated in strikes	-2932
14G-10 Politics annoys me	-3257
14G-09 I don't care about politics	-3454

Two groups in 2014, which signed collective appeals and petitions (relative weight = +3193), highly appreciate their interest in politics; those participated in the election campaigns (+2811), i.e. politically active respondents. At the same time, we observe the lowest assessment of the interest in politics, primarily in three groups of the same 2014: those participated in strikes (-2932); those annoyed by the politics (-3257); those don't care about politics (-3454). According to the results of the 2019 survey, the groups with a positive relative weight of political activity were not identified, and the two groups with a negative relative weight were not so clearly assessed with a minus sign as part of a multiple comparison compared to 2014 groups. Thus, 2014 estimates are more extreme than in 2019, when there is a trend towards a more neutral assessment of political indicators See in Table 1.

2. Nominal Response Groups

Table 2. Reason for voting for a particular candidate in the presidential election

Nominal groups	Relative weight
14G-07 He has a reliable team	+3605
14G-05 He is a strategic thinker with clear goals	+2689
14G-12 He was new, different than others	-1560
19G-16 Simply decided so	-2005
14G-10 He is attractive	-2932
14G-13 I voted as the majority	-3257

Two groups in 2014 also highly appreciate their interest in politics, who believe that their candidate has a reliable team (+3605); strategic thinking, clear goals (+2689), while we observe the lowest assessment of the interest in politics primarily in groups of the same 2014: who voted as a majority (-3257), the reason for the vote is attractive appearance (-2932). As in the first question, quite extreme results for 2019 respondents are practically not observed. There is only one low-content group “Simply decided so” (-2005) with a clear lack of interest in politics (See in Table 2).

II. Interval variable “Satisfaction with voting results in the presidential elections of the Russian Federation”

Let us consider the results for the groups of respondents formed on four questions with nominal responses (see Tables 3-6).

1. Nominal Response Groups

Table 3. Assessment of personal political activism

Nominal groups		Relative weight
14G12-07	Participated in strikes	+2624
19G-02	Participated in elections to the authorities of different levels	+1533

14G-10	Politics annoys me	-1638
14G-08	No, never had a chance to participate in something similar	-1825
14G-04	Participated in the elections campaign	-2055

One of the most politically active groups in 2014 who participated in the strikes (+2624) was the most satisfied with the results of the presidential election. But they are not satisfied, first of all, with the groups of the same 2014 who participated in the election campaign (–2055), or who, on the contrary, did not participate in political actions (–1825).

2. Nominal Response Groups

Table 4. Party voted for in the election of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

Nominal groups		Relative weight
19G-01	United Russia	+3370
14G-01	United Russia	+2329
14G-02	CPRF	-2676
14G-08	Spoiled ballot paper	-2961
14G-03	LDPR	-3189

The most satisfied voting results in the presidential election were noted among the supporters of the United Russia Party, and above all, by the 2019 respondents (+ 3370). The supporters of the Communist Party (–2676) and the Liberal Democratic Party (–3189) of 2014 are not satisfied with the election results, which cannot be attributed to the supporters of these parties who responded in 2019.

3. Nominal Response Groups

Table 5. Candidate voted for in the presidential election

Nominal groups		Relative weight
19G-01	Putin V.V.	+3313
14G-01	Putin V.V.	+2023
14G-06	No voted	-1778
14G-03	Zyuganov G.A.	-2993
14G-04	Prokhorov M.D.	-3068

The most satisfied voting results in the presidential election were noted among the respondents who voted for V.V. Putin, and above all, the 2019 respondents (+ 313). The supporters of other candidates in 2014 are absolutely not satisfied with the results: Prokhorov M.D. (–3068) and Zyuganov G.A. (–2993),

which also cannot be attributed to the 2019 respondents with their more neutral assessment of the election results.

4. Nominal Response Groups

Table 6. Reason for voting for a particular candidate in the presidential election

Nominal groups	Relative weight
14G-08 He is professional and competent	+3083
19G-16 Simply decided so	+3016
19G-01 I like him as a politician	+2191
14G-17 Not voted	-1893
14G-04 I was satisfied with his agenda	-3102
14G-10 He is attractive	-3253

For those satisfied with the voting results, in 2014 we observe the importance of their candidate's business qualities (+3083), which is not typical of those respondents in 2019 who were also satisfied with the election results. The groups in 2014, who were either satisfied with the agenda of their candidate (-3102), or satisfied with his attractive appearance (-3253), also became absolutely not satisfied with the results of the presidential election.

III. Interval variable

“Satisfaction with the work of the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin”

Let us consider the results for the groups of respondents formed on four questions with nominal responses (see Tables 7-10).

1. Nominal Response Groups

Table 7. Reason for non-political participation

Nominal groups	Relative weight
14G-07 I trust the president and think that he will solve all the problems	+3392
19G-05 There are no organizations I could trust and where I would like to participate	-2283
14G-10 Difficult to answer	-2499

One group of 2014 respondents was completely satisfied with the work of the president, those who trust the president and believe that he will solve all the problems (+3392). The representatives of the group already in 2019 were not satisfied with the work of the president, those who believe that there are no organizations that could be trusted and in which work they would like to participate (-2283).

2. Nominal Response Groups

Table 8. Party voted for in the election of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

Nominal groups	Relative weight
14G-01 United Russia	+2450
19G-01 United Russia	+1692
14G-03 LDPR	-1716
14G-02 CPRF	-2978
14G-08 Spoiled ballot paper	-3420

The greatest satisfaction with the work of the president is expressed by the supporters of the United Russia party, primarily in 2014 (+2450). Among the supporters of the Liberal Democratic Party (-1716) and especially the Communist Party (-2978) of 2014 there are clearly opposition sentiments, which cannot be attributed to 2019 respondents with their fairly neutral assessments of the president's work.

3. Nominal Response Groups

Table 9. Candidate voted for in the presidential election

Nominal groups	Relative weight
14G-01 Putin V.V.	+2636
19G-01 Putin V.V.	+1939
19G-03 Zyuganov G.A.	-2166
14G-03 Zyuganov G.A.	-2784

The most satisfaction with the work of the president is expressed by the respondents who voted for V.V. Putin, and this mainly applies to 2014 respondents (+2636). The greatest critics of the president were among the voters who voted for G.A. Zyuganov, and this mainly applies to 2014 respondents (-2784).

4. Nominal Response Groups

Table 10. Reason for voting for a particular candidate in the presidential election

Nominal groups	Relative weight
14G-10 He is attractive	+3431
14G-08 He is professional and competent	+3346
14G-02 I like him as a person	+3315
14G-13 I voted similar to the majority	+3176
14G-05 He is a strategic thinker with clear goals	+2610
19G-02 I like him as a person	+1694
14G-17 Not voted	-1603
14G-04 I was satisfied with his agenda	-2130

The greatest satisfaction with the work of the president is expressed by the respondents of the five groups of 2014 who either liked his attractive appearance (+3431); or professionalism and competence (+3346); who liked him as a person (+3315); who simply voted like the majority (+3176); who saw his strategic thinking, clear goals (+2610). Among those who positively evaluate the work of the president (with a relative weight of more than 1,500) there is only one group of 2019 respondents who simply like him as a person (+1694). Two groups of 2014, who either did not vote (-1603) or who were satisfied with his agenda (-2130), were not satisfied with the work of the president.

7. Conclusion

Thus, 2014 is characterized by a significant stronger differentiation of groups within interval variables, in 2019, due to the sharp decline in political activity of young people, their interest in politics, the respondents became inclined to increasingly neutral estimates of the phenomena of political life of society, political figures, parties, etc.

This was shown by the example of 3 interval variables:

1. "Interest in politics". Groups on 2 questions with nominal responses.
2. "Satisfaction with the voting results in the presidential election". Groups on 4 questions with nominal responses.
3. "Satisfaction with the work of the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin". Groups on 4 questions with nominal responses.

Further work on the application of author's methods (Basimov, 2016, 2018) continued for the data reviewed above as part of individual studies by year. The tasks were solved on the basis of the author's method of multiple comparison by studying the connections between interval variables, which once again confirm the need to study, first of all, the simplest non-linear connections in sociology and psychology, including in the study of the political preferences of young people. The conversation about traditional mistakes arising due to the "new" rules of statistics was raised by the author and his like-minded people at the main sociological ESAs (Kornienko & Basimov, 2017), ISAs and psychological ECPs, IPCs (Basimov & Padurina, 2012; Basimov & Ilinykh, 2012a, 2012b; Basimova, 2016; Basimova & Basimov, 2016a, 2016b) congresses, as well as in numerous articles.

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