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## **OPTIMISM/PESSIMISM OF STUDENTS OF ACADEMIC LIFE SATISFACTION**

Optimism and pessimism among students represent a subjective construct relating to their expectations, motivation, and effort directed towards achieving significant academic goals and interests, or rather, towards their satisfaction with academic life. An empirical study was conducted, with tasks encompassing the examination of students' optimism and pessimism, their satisfaction with academic life, as well as potential differences concerning measured socio-demographic characteristics. Additionally, the correlation between students' optimism/pessimism and academic life satisfaction was examined. 237 students of the University of Novi Sad participated in the research. The results of the research show that the students achieved a moderately high score on the scale of academic life satisfaction (AS=29.69, possible max=40), where statistically significant differences were found in relation to the financial situation and academic success. Students achieved a higher score on the optimism scale (AS=22.9), compared to the score achieved on the pessimism scale (AS=18.95), where statistically significant differences were also found in relation to the students' financial situation. There is a positive correlation between optimism and academic life satisfaction (Pearson's coefficient .421\*\*) and a negative correlation between



pessimism and academic life satisfaction (Pearson's coefficient  $-.291^{**}$ ) at a higher level of statistical significance ( $p=.00$ ).

**Keywords:** Optimism/pessimism, academic life satisfaction, students.

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## **PHENOMENOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF DESCARTES: CONCEPT OF THE UNITY OF MIND AND BODY**

In this paper, I will deal with arguably the most well-known aspect of René Descartes; philosophy– his dualistic theory of mind and body. Descartes clearly separated two kinds of substances: the corporeal (*res extensa*) and the mental (*res cogitans*). This division also applies to human beings, who represent the union of mind and body. However, this theory immediately faced a significant objection – the problem of interaction (how can the mind and body, as fundamentally distinct entities, interact?). In this work, I will analyse the mentioned problem raised by Princess Elizabeth and Descartes. The first goal of this paper will be to analyse Descartes specific phenomenological understanding of the unity of mind and body, through which he addresses the problem of interaction. The second goal will be to demonstrate, through a phenomenological interpretation, how Gilbert Ryle's understanding of Descartes dualism is fundamentally flawed. It will be shown