

## THE UNVARYING STEREOTYPE: CHARACTERISTICS OF A SCIENTIST

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### Abstract

Stereotypes are perceptions that are formed mentally and hard to change later on. The purpose of this study is to examine how college students perceive the characteristics of a scientist, which is one of their unvarying stereotypes. The working group consists of 45 science students who take training on 3rd grade of science teaching program of a state university located in the Black Sea region during fall semester of 2015-2016 academic year. Students, each of whom are given a sheet of paper during a lab class, are asked: "Please, draw the scientist that you imagine." Since drawing is an open-ended method, a control list has been prepared by the researcher to assess them. Drawings are assessed in terms of the gender of the scientist, his/her physical attributes, the environment he/she occupies, the field of equipments and tools in the environment, etc. Each drawing is assigned a number and coded as "0=not present, 1=present" in terms of the characteristic that is being examined. For rater reliability, data are analyzed with the rating activity of 3 different individuals. As a result, it has been observed that drawings depicting scientists who are males, having messy hair, wearing lab coats and glasses, interacting with physics and chemistry tools on a desk are dominant. Advices are given by examining the causes of this unvarying perception.

**Keywords:** Stereotype, scientist, perception, science education, drawing.