



Differences in relations between maternal display of positive and negative feelings and child attachment in Netherlands, Poland, and Turkey



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Developmental prerequisites of attachment

In middle childhood

Attachment developmental prerequisites



Cultural & Ecological
factors

Sensitive parenting

(e.g., Ainswirth et al., 1978/2015)

- Sensitivity (vs Insensitivity)
- Availability (vs Ignorance and Neglect)
- Acceptance (vs Rejection)
- Cooperation (vs Interference)

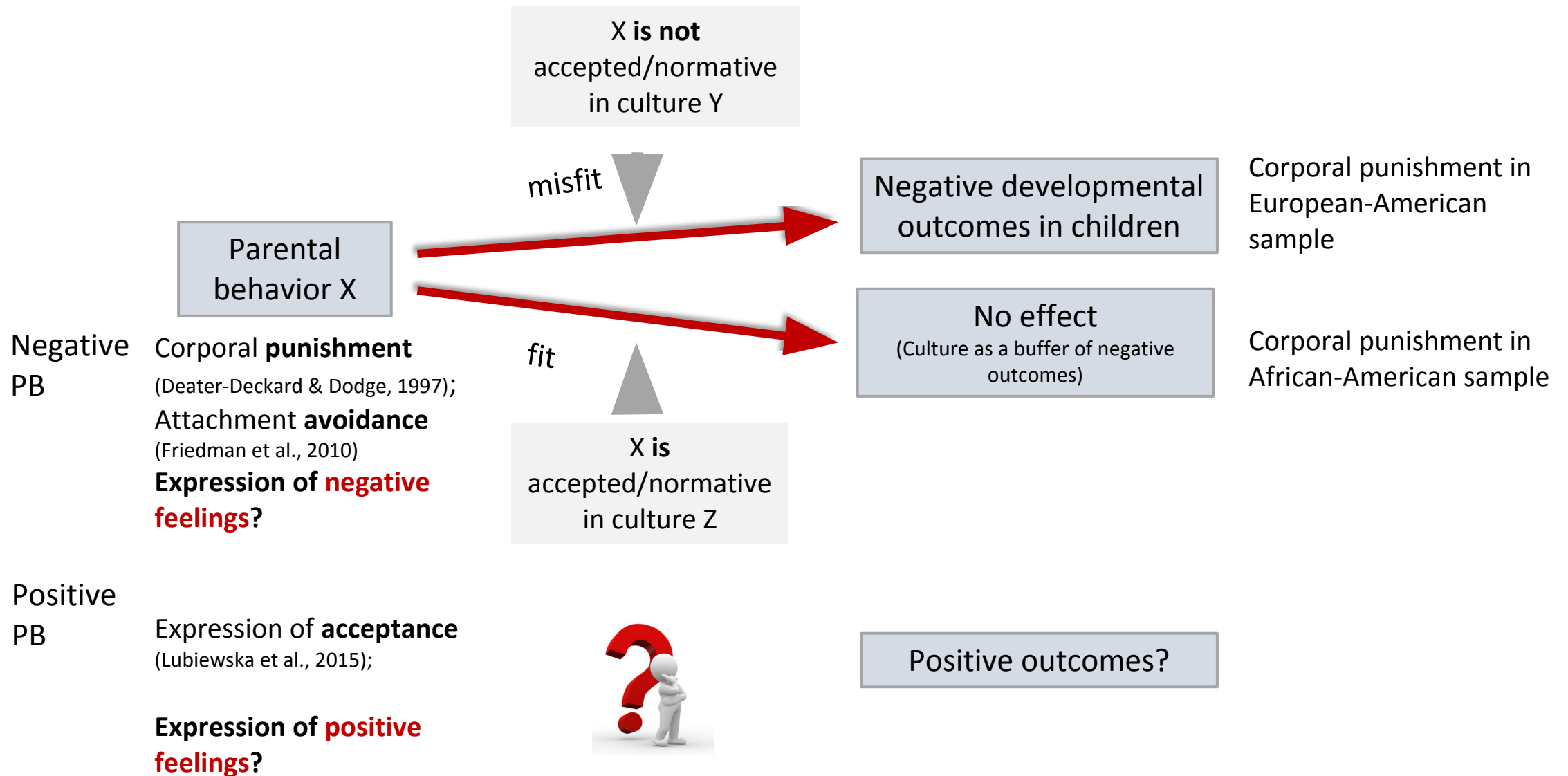
**Expression of
positive > negative
feelings**



**Child attachment
security**

Culture-fit hypothesis

(Deater-Deckard & Dodge, 1997; Friedman et al., 2010; Ward & Chang, 1997)



Aim of the study

To verify culture-fit hypothesis by testing relations between maternal **expression** of (+) **positive** and (-) **negative feelings** and child **attachment** **in cultural context**

Hofstede (2009): **Individualism/Collectivism, Restraint/Indulgence**

Gelfand (2011): **Tightness/Looseness** of culture



Polish cultural context: Social change from Restraint to Indulgence in child rearing, tight, individualistic



Turkish cultural context: Indulgent, tight, collectivistic



Dutch cultural context: Indulgent, loose, individualistic

Hypotheses

Expression of
POSITIVE
feelings

Traditionally less accepted
in **RESTRAINT** cultures:
Poland



Social change in Poland:
PFE is desirable parental
behavior



Positive effect >
No effect
(attachment
security)

Normative in **INDULGENT**
cultures:
Netherlands
Turkey



No effect >
Positive effect

Expression of
NEGATIVE
feelings

Traditionally accepted in
RESTRAINT cultures:
Poland



No effect >
Negative effect

Less accepted in **INDULGENT**
cultures:
Netherlands
Turkey



Negative effect >
No effect >
(attachment
insecurity)



Method

Method: Our project

Combination of *emic* and *etic* approach to attachment and parenting in Poland, Turkey and Netherlands (CEE-PaAtt)

Lubiewska, K. Głogowska K., Sumer, N., Aran, O., van de Vijver, A. J. R., de Raad, W.



Sabancı
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QUALITATIVE stage:

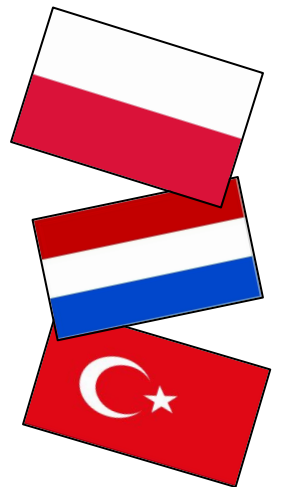
Focus group meetings
Interviews with 30 mothers in each country about

...

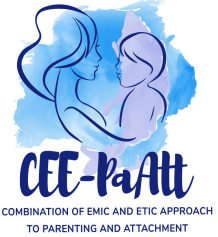
Emic scales developed based on culture-specific analysis of interviews

QUANTITATIVE stage:

Pilot study
The main data collection



Method: Sample & Instruments



Sample:

Mothers of children between 8-12 year of age in Poland ($n = 258$), Turkey ($n = 250$), and Netherlands ($n = 250$)

Instruments:

Experience in Close Relationships-Revised for Children: 19 items reminded after EFA and CFA analyses

- **Avoidance** (*alphas* from .802 to .950)
- **Anxiety** (*alphas* from .702 to .927)

Metric invariance established across cultural groups

Network of Relationships Inventory: Behavioral Systems Version: 6 items

- Seeking for **Safe haven:** (*alphas* from .799 to .873)
- Seeking for **Secure base:** (*alphas* from .757 to .774)

Maternal report:

Emic scales: Maternal expression of feelings in relations with own child

- **Positive feelings:** (*alphas* from .838 to .900)
- **Negative feelings:** Verbalization (*alphas* from .625 to .755); Emotional (*alphas* from .731 to .771); Distance (*alphas* from .768 to .836)

5 steps Likert scale

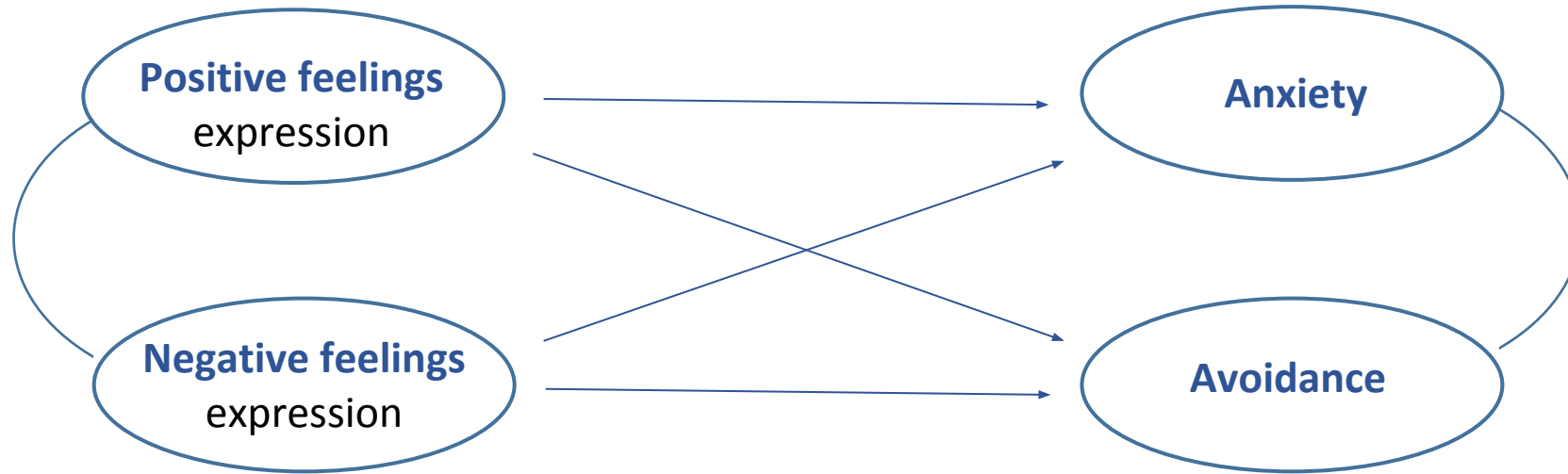
Metric invariance of all scales was established across cultural groups

Results

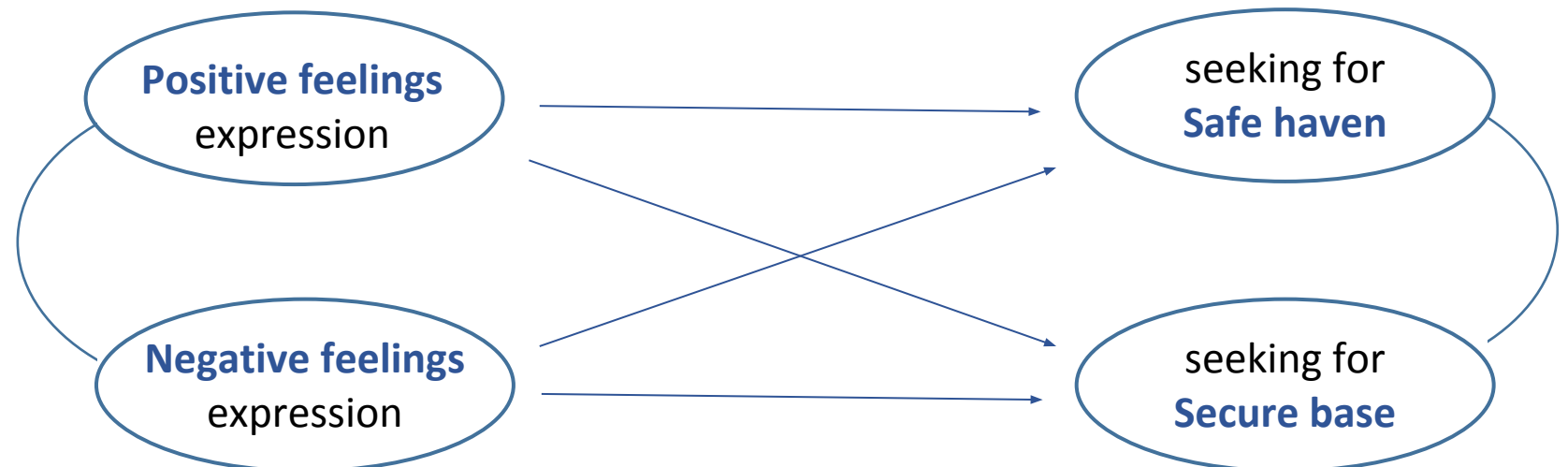
- ❑ SEM structural model under the study
- ❑ SEM results and MG-SEM based moderation effects for models explaining child attachment dimensions of:
 - Avoidance and Anxiety (Model 1)
 - Safe haven and Secure base (Model 2)

Structural SEM models under the study:

Model 1: Anxiety & Avoidance

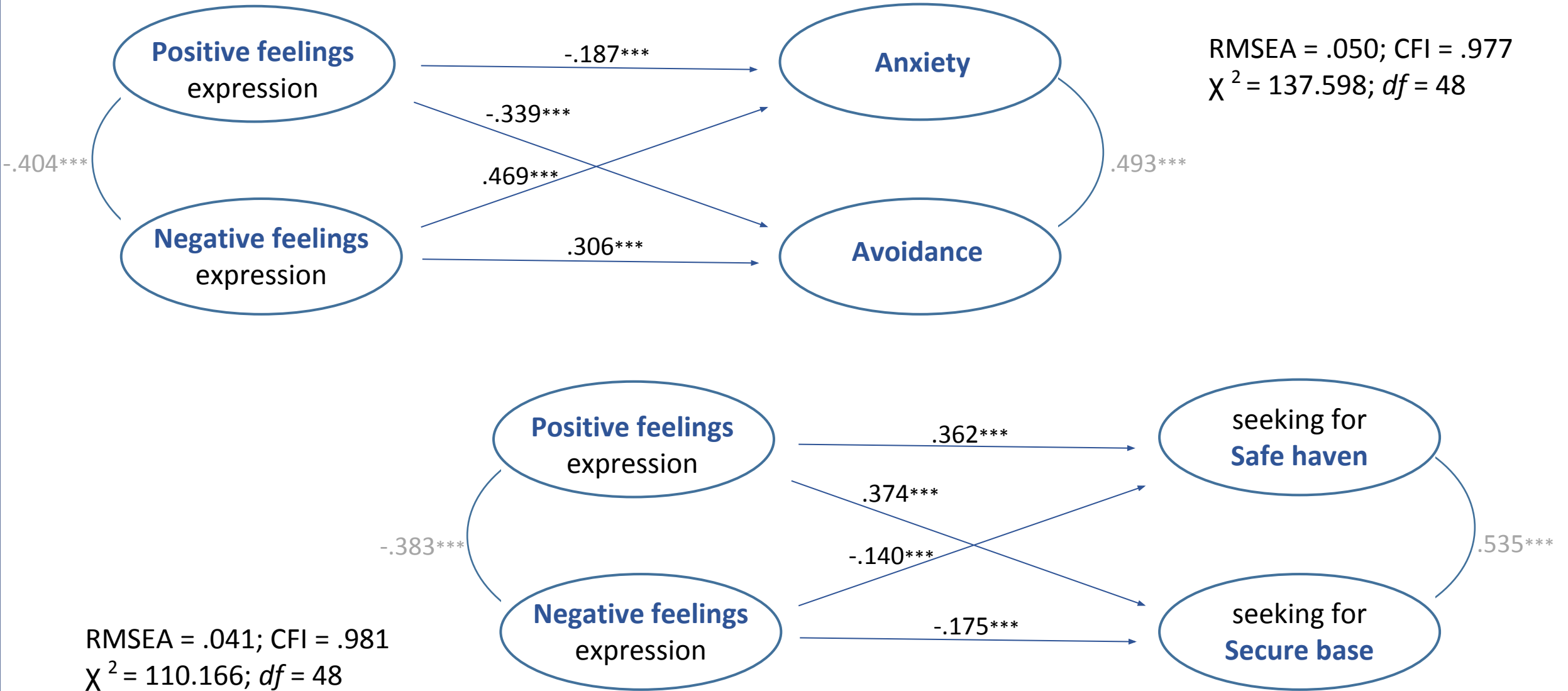


Model 2: Safe haven & Secure base

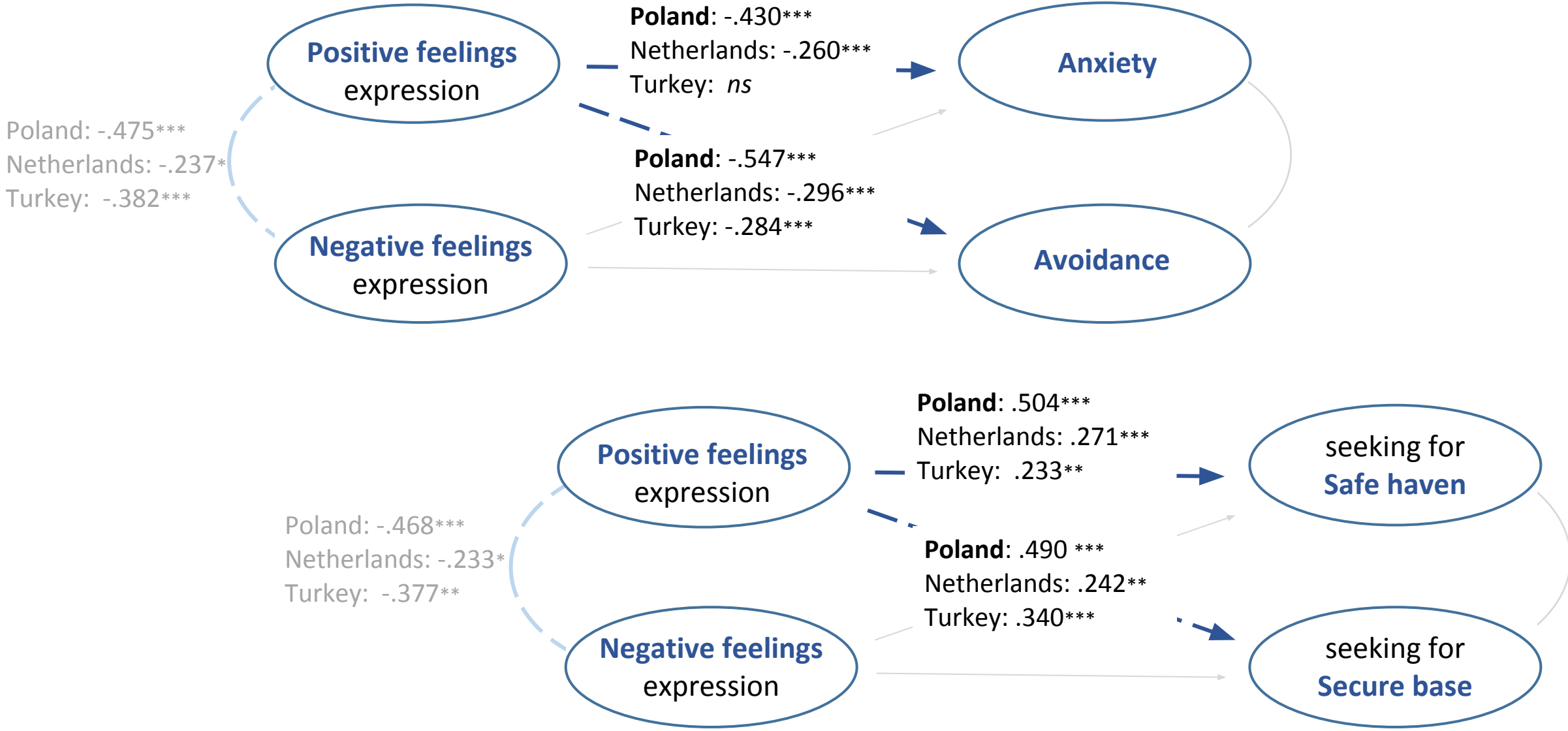


Structural paths were tested in Multigroup SEM testing moderation effects of culture

Results : Total sample



Results : Moderation effects



Discussion

Discussion & Future directions

- Positive feelings expression hypothesis was supported:
 - Culturally desirable parental behavior may be strongly related with developmental outcomes like attachment security
 - Fashionable matters!
 - Negative hurts universally?
- Culture moderates effects of: Positive > negative parental behaviors
- Effects of negative expression of feelings is not culture sensitive in our study

Future directions:

- Lacking traditional restraint and not indulgent culture



Thank you for attention!

Attachment developmental prerequisites



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factors

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(e.g., Ainswirth et al., 1978/2015)

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Child attachment security

- Mothers, less fathers and other attachment figures
- Other factors (e.g., genetical -> differential susceptibility)

Expression of
positive > negative
feelings

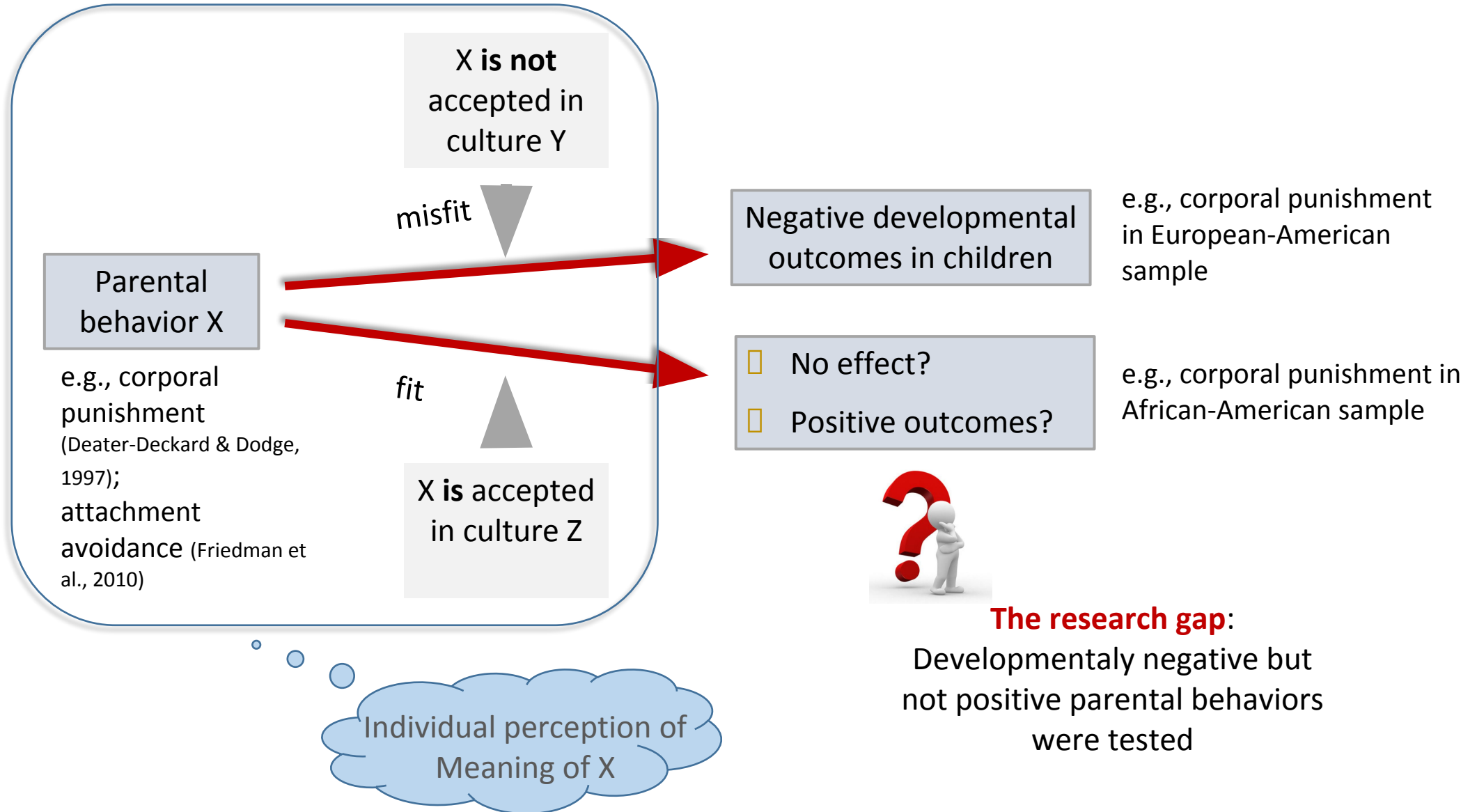
Culture

- Provides opportunities for development
- Defines the limits of what is desirable, „normal”, allowed
- Defines meaning of parenting behaviors (e.g., corporal punishment as involvement or child abuse)

(e.g., Deater-Deckard & Dodge; Keller, 2015; Scarr, 1993)

Culture-fit hypothesis

(Deater-Deckard & Dodge, 1997; Friedman et al., 2010; Ward & Chang, 1997)



Polish, Turkish, and Dutch cultural context



Dimensions of cultures:

Hofstede (2009): **Individualism/Collectivism, Restraint/Indulgence**

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Middle childhood:

- Understudied
- Relative increase of **influence of culture** and acquisition of culture's standards (Grusec, 2002)
- Peers** become more important but **parents** are still important socialization agents and attachment figures (Arnett, 2014; Laursen & Collins, 2009)

