

The Use of Conjoint and Cluster Analysis For Preference-Based Market Segmentation

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Market segmentation implies dividing the market into smaller segments that are homogenous inside, and heterogenous in relation to one another. Market segmentation is a part of strategic marketing, together with targeting and positioning, preceded by marketing research and followed by creating, implementing and controlling the marketing mix. As well as being an essential field of academic research, market segmentation proved to be a very useful concept for managers. The market segmentation concept dates back almost six decades, but issues raised regarding market segmentation more than three decades ago are still relevant and the number of different approaches in answering these questions is high.

Preference-based segmentation can also be viewed in this context. Differences in consumers' preferences are, in fact, one of the vital causes of market segmentation. Preference-based market segmentation can be conducted by using conjoint analysis in combination with cluster analysis. The benefits of such approach are multiple, as they give rise to opportunities for: formulating the questions in a manner similar to real-life purchasing situations; reducing the number of socially desirable answers; introducing several attributes of a given product thus enabling an insight into the relative importance of the product's attributes, and order of preferences for different levels of these attributes, and, based on this, defining different market segments; testing the significance of various other market segmentation criteria (sociodemographic, psychographic and/or behavioural) for profiling the established segments; increasing the comparability of results of different studies; using this approach in planned new product launches and on emerging and developing markets as well as studying the difference between expressed preferences and purchases, in terms of obstacles preventing preferences to transform into purchase phase.

Besides theoretical aspects regarding market segmentation and preference-based market segmentation by using conjoint and cluster analysis, this article demonstrates the use of such approach in researching student population in Vojvodina (the northern province of the Republic of Serbia) and this population's preferences to yoghurt (250 questionnaires handed out, 123 returned filled in, 98 included in the final analysis). In addition to results at the total sample level, two segments were identified and differences between them were investigated. Implications to the questions raised in the theoretical section of the article were sought on the obtained results. The article also seeks to point to the benefits of using this approach in domestic conditions, where its use is almost negligible.

Keywords: *marketing research, market segmentation, market segmentation criteria, preference-based market segmentation, conjoint analysis, cluster analysis.*

Introduction

The market segmentation concept dates back almost six decades (Smith, 1956). Jobber and Fahy (2006) define market segmentation as the identification of individuals or organizations with similar characteristics, with significant implications for determining marketing strategy. Kotler (2007) lists market segmentation among the steps in the marketing management process. Together with targeting and positioning, Kotler includes market segmentation in strategic marketing, which follows upon the completion of marketing research and precedes tactical marketing, i.e. creating

marketing mix, and its implementation and control. Rather than being homogenous groups of consumers formed naturally on the market, segments are determined by marketing managers' strategic view of the market, i.e. managerial perspective determines the way homogenous groups of potential consumers will be identified by marketing research (Wedel & Kamakura, 2002).

Kotler and Keller (2006) identify criteria grouped into geographic, demographic, psychographic and behavioral as the basis for segmenting the final consumer market (the focus of interest in this article is final consumer market segmentation). Furthermore, these authors distinguish

between two alternative approaches. The first implies that market segments are defined based on descriptive characteristics – geographic, demographic and psychographic, followed by investigating whether thus defined market segments have different needs or reactions to products. The other approach stems from behavioral market segmentation, with the aim of finding descriptive characteristics for identified market segments. The same authors also argue that market segmentation can be approached at the level of a market segment comprising a single consumer, which is known as customized or one-to-one marketing. Actually, the prominent idea is that knowing consumers is not enough; they also have to be understood.

As well as being an essential field of academic research, market segmentation proved to be an extremely useful concept for managers (Wedel & Kamakura, 2002). Issues concerning market segmentation are therefore the subject of lively discourse not only among theoreticians but also practitioners, often the most pronounced in the part related to the need to bring academic and applied approaches to market segmentation closer. Important issues regarding market segmentation that require investigation, as identified by Wind in 1978, were confirmed as relevant in later research as well (Wedel & Kamakura, 2002; Quinn & Dibb, 2010). The order of priorities in this research was partly changed (managerial relevance and implementation have become the research essential preoccupation), but the priorities of the research (including the issues of market segmentation variables, choice of variables, robustness of segmentation outputs in addition to the already mentioned managerial relevance and implementation) remained the same over the decades (Quinn & Dibb, 2010).

However, it is the fact that the research priorities remained the same for decades that suggests that the approach to these priorities has undergone certain changes. One of the illustrations that can be mentioned is a change in the attitude towards choosing market segmentation criteria. Writing on new market segmentation criteria, Yankelovich (1964) stated that until then dominant demographic criteria had not been the most appropriate for market segmentation; instead, what was crucial for marketing objectives were differences in consumers' attitudes, motivation, values, patterns of usage, aesthetic preferences and susceptibility level. Four decades later, however, Yankelovich and Meer (2006) criticize the domination of psychographic market segmentation, arguing that, despite of being significant for advertising, where it manages to attract consumers to a brand, it is not simultaneously adequate for achieving some other corporate objectives, and therefore give a matrix unifying decisions of different level of importance with issues relevant to business, consumers' preoccupation and the tasks and criteria of market segmentation.

The problem set before this study – the research of preference-based market segmentation - was defined in the context of relevant issues related to market segmentation. Several aims were defined in connection with this problem. Firstly, it deals with presenting and demonstrating the use of appropriate technique by which the given segmentation could be performed – in this case, ratings-based conjoint analysis in combination with cluster analysis. In addition to

this aim, the study included the research of possibilities, advantages and implications of chosen approach, both from scientific and managerial aspects.

It is chosen in this article to research the use of preference-based market segmentation by conjoint and cluster analysis on the example of Vojvodina (the northern province of the Republic of Serbia) student population's yoghurt market. In that context, two hypotheses have been formulated. The first hypothesis is: *At least two market segments can be identified at Vojvodina student population's yoghurt market by using preference-based market segmentation.* The second hypothesis is: *Market segments at Vojvodina student population's yoghurt market are statistically significantly different not only by preferences towards yoghurt, but by certain socio-demographic and behavioral characteristics, as well.*

In addition, in the conditions of the authors' milieu, the presented study has an additional value, in terms of actualizing and promoting relatively unfamiliar and quite unused approach to market segmentation in their country. Actually, as far as the authors are informed, preference-based market segmentation with conjoint and cluster analysis is severely underused in Serbia, both in terms of the number of scholars who would predominantly focus their research to the issue, and in terms of applying this analysis for resolving market problems (apart from the Focus Balkans project, where one of the sections deals with traditional food in Serbia and other countries of Southeastern Europe). On the other hand, the development of market economy, fierce competition, especially in some industries, increasingly manifested differentiation among consumers, accompanied by the increase of their purchasing power, suggest a stronger need for market segmentation and raise questions in the national milieu that are normally raised before market segmentation at the global scale, already mentioned above.

The study includes desk research and field marketing research (Salai & Bozidarevic, 2009). The desk research resulted in gathered secondary data, presented in the section of the paper giving an overview of literature on the researched issues. The comparative marketing research method was applied to this end. Primary data were gathered by means of a survey (structured personal interviews conducted with respondents by using a questionnaire).

Preference-Based Market Segmentation: Literature Review

Preference-based market segmentation can be understood in the context of issues raised regarding market segmentation.

Kardes (1999) states that differences in consumers' preferences, attitudes and perceived values are, in fact, one of the vital causes of market segmentation. The influence of these variables is noticed considering food market too (Kim, 2012). However, Wedel and Kamakura (1998) suggest that this is not a wide use of consumers' preferences as a basis for market segmentation. This situation is caused partly because such an approach might entail challenges in its implementation.

However, the researches in which consumers' preferences are used as a basis for market segmentation

have demonstrated that such an approach is possible and successful as well: Delarue and Loescher (2004) in the study with chewing gums; Honkanen, Olsen and Myrland (2004) in the study of meal preferences among Norwegian teenagers; Olsen, Prebensen and Larsen (2009) in the study of convenience food in Norway; as well as Honkanen (2010) when defining market segments in Russia according to food preferences. Drewnowski and Hann (1999) point out that according to respondents' food preferences (as well as according to reported frequencies of food consumption), their dietary outcomes can be predicted.

Preference-based market segmentation can be performed by using conjoint analysis combined with cluster analysis. In the following section of the paper, basic information regarding conjoint and cluster analysis, as well as advantages of using it for preference-based market segmentation, will be given.

Conjoint and Cluster Analysis as Methodology for Preference-Based Market Segmentation

As well as the cluster analysis and multidimensional scaling, conjoint analysis emerged in the 1970s, encouraged by the development of behavioral sciences, especially psychometry and mathematical psychology, and is used in situations when the decision maker has to choose between the options with simultaneous variations of two or more attributes: whether to choose option X or option Y, where X has a better attribute A, while Y has a better attribute B, and this refers to several attributes (Green *et al.*, 2004).

The significance of conjoint analysis for consumer research was spotted immediately in the years of its emergence (Green & Srinivasan, 1978). In addition to market segmentation, this technique enables measuring consumer preferences and their purchase intentions, establishing how consumers would respond to changes on the existing products or launching new ones, enhancing the current achievements, application for defining the pricing policy, use in advertising, distribution, controlling, as well as in stimulating purchasing decisions with a focus on competitors' responses (Gustafsson *et al.*, 2007).

A flow diagram of conjoint analysis, explaining the procedure of applying this analysis, includes: selection of the preference function, selection of data collection method, selection of data collection design, selection of the way the stimuli are presented, selection of data collection procedure, selection of the method for evaluation of the stimuli and estimation of benefit values (Gustafsson *et al.*, 2007).

There are several different techniques of conjoint analysis. Various conjoint analysis techniques, used for market segmentation as well, are an ever-present part of researchers' interest, notably in terms of comparing them by various criteria (Elrod *et al.*, 1992; Vriens *et al.*, 1996; Moore, 2004). Upon comparison of the techniques mentioned above, full agreement regarding the choice of the most appropriate market segmentation technique as well, is lacking among theoreticians, and especially among practical researchers.

Cluster analysis is a term used to describe a family of statistical procedures designed to discover classifications within complex data sets with the goal to group objects

into clusters in a manner that objects within one cluster share more in common with each other than they do with the objects of other clusters (Gore, 2004). There are several phases in conducting cluster analysis: selection of distance measure for individual observations, selection of cluster algorithm, defining the distance between clusters, determining the number of clusters and validation of analysis (Everitt *et al.*, 2001).

The advantages of preference-based market segmentation (using in this specific case, choice-based conjoint analysis and latent class segmentation) were presented in the article by Wilson-Jeanselme and Reynolds (2006). Djokic, Salai and Mesaros (2012) view the benefits of preference-based market segmentation by conjoint and cluster analysis (on an example of organic product consumers, for which reason the presentation of advantages at this point is adapted to the overall situation) through the possibilities of:

- formulating questions in a manner appropriate to real-life purchase situations;
- reducing the number of socially desirable answers;
- introducing other attributes of a given product, thus enabling an insight into the relative importance of the product's attributes, and order of preferences for different levels of these attributes, and, based on this, defining different market segments;
- testing the significance of various other (sociodemographic, psychographic and/or behavioral) market segmentation criteria for profiling the established segments;
- increasing the comparability of results of different studies;
- using this approach in planned new product launches and on emerging and developing markets;
- studying the difference between expressed preferences and purchases, in terms of obstacles preventing preferences to transform into purchase phase.

The following section of the article aims to present the above mentioned advantages through an overview of the results of the carried out marketing research.

Marketing research settings and conducting

In the conducted marketing research described below, the respondents were drawn from the student population of the University of Novi Sad (in Vojvodina, northern province of the Republic of Serbia). The reasons for choosing this population are multiple. One of the reasons is availability of this sample population to the researchers, and the resulting lower costs. Although the results obtained on such sample cannot be generalized on the entire population of the Republic of Serbia, this does not impede the aim of the article to demonstrate the advantages of applying the chosen approach in domestic conditions. On the other hand, researching young educated people as a future market, potential opinion leaders in their communities, future parents who will influence the formation of consumption patterns of future generations, notably their own children, and as respondents whose income is bound to grow substantially upon completion of their studies and finding employment, justifies the choice of this population as research sample.

The other remark regarding the research is that yoghurt is chosen as a product for survey not only because its consumption is widely present among the population of the Republic of Serbia, but also because this product has been undergoing intensive innovation over the past years.

When designing the questionnaire, relevant attributes of yogurt and their levels were chosen (Table 1) whose combinations (each of the combinations is a possible product description) would be offered to respondents to evaluate. According to the earlier research of consumers' shopping habits in Serbia the chosen attributes are related to yoghurt researches conducted by marketing research agencies, published on two occasions in 2011 and 2012 in Progressive Magazin (<http://www.crier.rs>). Four different

brands' variations were given to respondents to evaluate (these four brands have the largest market share in Serbia, according to the research mentioned previously). In addition, the authors consulted the representatives of dairy industry on the choice of yoghurt attributes and their levels. Some attributes, notably the price, were omitted so that attribute levels could be mutually independent (Kuzmanovic, 2004), and also because of the comparatively lower purchasing power of the student population, which is expected to be discontinued once they've found employment, when they will be able to achieve their preferences by shopping without such strong impact of the pricing attribute.

Table 1

Chosen attributes and attribute levels of yoghurt

	Attribute	Attribute level				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Producer	Imlek	Mlekara Subotica	Somboled	Mlekara Šabac	
2	Type of milk	Cow	Goat			
3	Milk fat content	0 %	0.5 %	1.5 %	2.8 %	3.2 %
4	Fruit flavour	None	Strawberry	Apricot	Sour cherry	Wild berries
5	Special function	None	Probiotic	Immuno		
6	Lactose content	Present	None			
7	Packaging	PET bottle	Carton			
8	Volume	1 litre	½ litre	0.2 litre		

The possible number of attribute level combinations for yoghurt is $4*2*5*3*2*2*3=7.200$. However, giving such number of combinations to respondents to evaluate is pointless and unnecessary. As conjoint analysis can actually be viewed as issue of multiple regression, the number of parameters to be evaluated (number of cards handed out to consumers) can be calculated by subtracting the total number of attributes (8 in this case) from the total number of all attribute levels (26 in this case), adding 1 to the balance and then multiplying the obtained figure by 1.5

to 3 (<http://www.sawtoothsoftware.com/download/techpap/caexcel.pdf>). The minimum number of combinations set by the authors to this number of attributes and attribute levels was calculated in the described way and multiplied by 2, so it is $(26-8+1)*2=38$

Defining 38 as the minimum number of combinations and using orthogonal design, the program (SPSS Trial Version) generated 49 different combinations added to the questionnaire (one of the generated combinations is shown in Table 2).

Table 2

Example of card given to respondents for evaluation

Card ID	Producer	Type of Milk	Milk fat content	Fruit flavour	Special function	Lactose content	Packaging	Volume	Evaluation (0 TO 10)
10	Somboled	cow	0%	sour cherry	probiotic	present	carton	½ litre	

In addition to the above, the questionnaire also included the questions related to some of the respondents' sociodemographic and behavioral characteristics. These questions refer to the respondents' age and gender, accommodation (that may correspond to the way respondents obtain their meals – respondents living with their parents will probably have meals within their families, respondents living in rented accommodation will probably prepare food by themselves, respondents living in the dorm will probably eat in a student canteen), frequency of consumption of milk and yoghurt, and the amount of money spent on food monthly.

Having designed the questionnaires, the authors consulted several marketing research experts on the content, followed by a pre-testing with 32 students, which showed that some of the questions needed to be reworded (frequency of yoghurt and milk consumption and range of amounts spent on food).

The survey was conducted in May 2012. Several assistant lecturers from the University of Novi Sad handed

out the questionnaires at the end of the tutorial, asking students to return the filled questionnaires at the beginning of the session held after an hour's break. The students were told that the authors were attempting to conduct a survey applying a marketing research method hardly ever used on the local market, and as reinforcement, the students who responded were given the opportunity to attend a specialized lecture where they could learn more on this method. The respondents were asked to express the preference to each of the offered combination of yoghurt attributes and their levels by the range of points from 0 (the lowest preference level of the given yoghurt) to 10 (the highest). The order of cards was shuffled on different questionnaires, to reduce the possibility of respondents devoting more attention to expressing preferences on the first combinations. Although the number of combinations was comparatively large, respondents who returned filled in questionnaires did not express a significant degree of objection to their length, or state that they had problems concentrating on the evaluation of the given number of combinations.

Out of 250 questionnaires handed out, 123 were returned filled in. Having eliminated the questionnaires of respondents who do not consume the given product, or expressed their preference to all offered products by the same evaluation, 98 questionnaires were left and included into the final analysis.

Sample Description

Respondents whose questionnaires were included into the analysis are aged 19 to 29 (22.86 years of age on the average). The sample comprised 20 males (20.4%) and 78 females (79.6%). Predominantly female respondents in the sample are acceptable, because, according to the latest research results, it is the women that predominantly make shopping decisions and go shopping for food in the Republic of Serbia (FOCUS-BALKANS, 2010). Most of the respondents were tenants in rented accommodation (40.8 %); the second largest group live with their parents (39.8 %), and finally, 16.3 % respondents live in the dorm. The percentage of respondents consuming milk daily amounted to 26.5 %; 36.7 % respondents consume it

several times a week; 18.4 % do it once a week, whereas 8.2 % of the respondents consume milk once a month or less. Respondents consuming yoghurt daily account for 14.3 % of the sample; several times a week 48 %, once a week 32.7 %, while 5.1 % of the respondents consume yoghurt once a month or less. 13.3 % of the respondents spend up to 3,000 dinars (at the time of the survey, approximately 27 euro) a month on food; 24.5 % respondents spend 3,000 to 5,000 dinars (27 to 45 euro); 38.8 % spend between 5,000 and 10,000 dinars (45 to 90 euro); 17,3 % spend between 10,000 and 15,000 dinars (90 to 135 euro), while 6.1 % of them spend over 15,000 dinars (135 euro).

Marketing Research Results

The analysis conducted on the total sample showed the following values of correlation between observed and estimated preferences: Person’s R=0,992; Kendall’s tau=0,812, which confirms that the conjoint model described the respondents’ ratings well. The results obtained based on the total sample are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

Conjoint analysis results on the total sample

Attribute	Importance values	Attribute level	Utility Estimate	Std. Error
Producer	12,312	IMLEK	,066	,063
		MLEKARA SUBOTICA	-,068	,063
		SOMBOLED	,050	,063
		MLEKARA SABAC	-,048	,080
Type Of Milk	31,633	COW	1,568	,038
		GOAT	-1,568	,038
Milk Fat Content	15,526	0%	-,143	,067
		0,5%	,053	,067
		1,5%	,211	,087
		2,8%	,192	,087
		3,2%	-,313	,087
Fruit Flavour	19,061	NONE	,379	,067
		STRAWBERRY	-,011	,067
		APRICOT	-,309	,087
		SOUR CHERRY	,049	,087
		WILD BERRIES	-,107	,087
Special Function	6,943	NONE	,071	,051
		PROBIOTIC	-,060	,056
		IMMUNO	-,011	,056
Lactose Content	3,722	PRESENT	-,036	,038
		NONE	,036	,038
Packaging	3,868	PET BOTTLE	-,088	,038
		CARTON	,088	,038
Volume	6,936	1 LITRE	,067	,051
		½ LITRE	,059	,056
		0.2 LITRE	-,126	,056
		(Constant)	3,720	,045

The analysis was also performed starting from individual preferences of each respondent for different yoghurt attribute levels. This analysis particularly enabled preference-based market segmentation. The dendogram below (Figure 1) indicating the existence of two market segments was obtained using squared Euclidian distance as a distance measure, and one of two most used approaches in cluster analysis – Ward’s method (Gore, 2000). It can be concluded that the first hypothesis is confirmed.

Opting for defining two market segments by using cluster analysis enabled classifying each respondent into one of these two market segments. Conjoint analysis was then performed for each of the two market segments separately (Table 4). Furthermore, correlation values between observed and estimated preferences were also established – Person’s R=0.996; Kendall’s tau=0.792 for the first, and Person’s R=0,954; Kendall’s tau=0,809 for the second market segment.

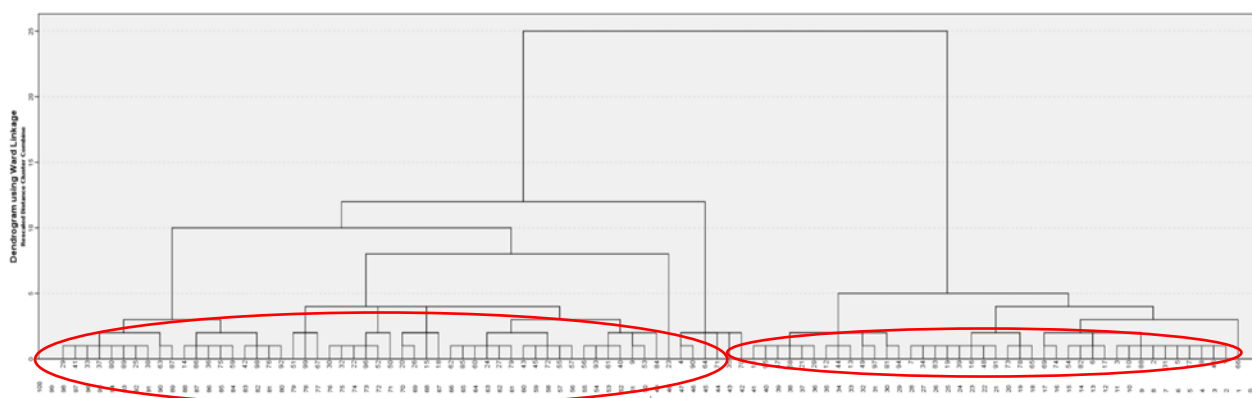


Figure 1. Dendrogram with marked clusters (market segments)

Table 4

Conjoint analysis results for clusters (market segments)

Attribute	Importance Values		Attribute Level	Market Segment 1		Market Segment 2	
	Market Segment 1	Market Segment 2		Utility Estimate	Std. Error	Utility Estimate	Std. Error
Producer	10,242	13,800	<i>Imlek</i>	,194	,066	-,025	,109
			Mlekara Subotica	-,014	,066	-,107	,109
			Somboleđ	,030	,066	,064	,109
			<i>Mlekara Sabac</i>	-,210	,084	,069	,139
Type Of Milk	46,950	20,616	<i>Cow</i>	2,425	,040	,951	,066
			<i>Goat</i>	-2,425	,040	-,951	,066
Milk Fat Content	12,072	18,010	0 %	,013	,070	-,255	,116
			0,5 %	,043	,070	,061	,116
			1,5 %	-,006	,091	,366	,150
			2,8 %	,029	,091	,309	,150
			3,2 %	-,079	,091	-,481	,150
Fruit Flavour	13,405	23,129	None	-,288	,070	,858	,116
			<i>Strawberry</i>	,113	,070	-,100	,116
			<i>Apricot</i>	-,025	,091	-,513	,150
			Sour Cherry	,006	,091	,079	,150
			<i>Wild Berries</i>	,194	,091	-,325	,150
Special Function	5,268	8,148	None	,014	,053	,112	,087
			<i>Probiotic</i>	-,007	,058	-,099	,096
			Immuno	-,007	,058	-,013	,096
Lactose Content	3,110	4,162	Present	-,044	,040	-,031	,066
			None	,044	,040	,031	,066
Packaging	3,533	4,109	Pet Bottle	-,081	,040	-,093	,066
			Carton	,081	,040	,093	,066
Volume	5,420	8,027	1 Litre	-,069	,053	,166	,087
			½ Litre	,037	,058	,074	,096
			0.2 Litre	,032	,058	-,240	,096
		(Constant)		4,234	,048	3,350	,079

The results of the conjoint analysis on the total sample (Table 3) indicate that the greatest impact on the yoghurt-related preference is made by the type of milk it is produced from (the importance value of this attribute is 31.633 %). The following attributes are identified by relative importance for yoghurt preference: fruit flavor – 19.061 %; milk fat content – 15.526 %; producer – 12.312 %; special function – 6.943 %; volume – 6.936 %, whereas the impact of packaging and lactose content influence the preferences the least and almost equally – 3.868 % and 3.722 % respectively. The analysis also had to include preferences to different attribute levels. This was done by comparing utility estimate values for all the levels of a single attribute. The most preferred attribute level is shown by the highest utility estimate value, and so on. Based on the results, the “ideal yoghurt” at the level of all respondents is made from cow milk, without fruits added,

with 1.5 % milk fat, produced by Imlek, without special function, packed in 1 liter, without lactose content and in carton packaging. When analyzing the results at two defined market segments level (Table 4) one can notice that the first market segment comprises 41 and the second 57 respondents. These two market segments show differences both in the order of importance of preferred attributes and their levels.

The first market segment comprises consumers who find it by far most important for yoghurt to be produced from cow milk, the importance value of this attribute is 46.95 %. The second place, with more than 3 times lower importance level, is taken up by the presence of fruits in yoghurt, with relative importance of 13.405 %. However, unlike the results at the aggregate level, consumers in this market segment prefer fruit-flavored yoghurts (the order of preferences by the levels of this attribute is: wild berries

flavored yoghurt, strawberry flavored yoghurt, sour cherry flavored yoghurt, apricot flavored yoghurt, and finally unflavored yoghurt). These attributes are followed by the attribute related to milk fat content, where yoghurt with 0.5 % milk fat content is the most preferred, and by the attribute related to the producers, where the most preferred yoghurt, like in the results of the total sample, is the one produced by Imlek.

The second market segment comprises respondents to whom three attributes are approximately similar by importance: presence of fruit in the yoghurt (23.129 %), milk from which the yoghurt was produced (20.616 %), and milk fat content (18.01 %). Furthermore, consumers in this market segment prefer non-flavored yoghurt, produced from cow milk with 1.5 % milk fat content. The favorite yoghurt producer for consumers in this segment is Mlekara Sabac, followed by Somboled, while Imlek takes up the penultimate place. Like in the first, consumers in this segment prefer yoghurts without special functions, which are lactose free and in carton packaging, although the importance values of these attributes in comparison to the earlier listed ones are relatively lower.

In addition to comparing by importance values and preference levels of yoghurt attributes (attribute levels with statistically significant differences between segments are printed in bold italic in Table 4), it is also possible to compare market segments by sociodemographic and behavioral characteristics given at the beginning of the questionnaire. As two market segments (categorical variables) were compared, if the comparison was done by preferences to different attribute levels and respondents' age, testing two segments was performed by means of independent samples T-test when variables had normal distribution, and Mann-Whitney non-parametric test when variables did not have normal distribution. Mann-Whitney test was also used for establishing differences between segments by frequency of milk consumption, frequency of yoghurt consumption, and the amount of money spent for food. Chi-square test was used for comparing segments by gender and residence, i.e. accommodation. The results of these tests are given in appendices.

When sociodemographic and behavioral variables comprised in the questionnaire are included in the analysis, it can be seen that two market segments are statistically significantly different by the fact that the members of the second market segment are more mature, predominantly male, and consume yoghurt more often. It can be concluded that the second hypothesis is confirmed.

Interpretation and Implications of Marketing Research Results

The results show that consumers in both market segments prefer cow milk yoghurt to goat milk yoghurt (where this question is the first and second respectively by importance for the members of these two market segments). Goat milk yoghurt is an innovation on the Serbian market, goat milk itself is often perceived as exceptionally healthful, but its taste is considered as less pleasant than that of cow milk. In the authors' opinion, rejecting goat milk yoghurt should not be interpreted as non-acceptance of innovative products, especially in view

of the fact that the first market segment accepts another innovation (fruit-flavored yoghurt) - the authors consider fruit-flavored yoghurt as innovation since it emerged in Serbian market after the year 2000, but still has relatively small market share in comparison to traditional yoghurt (<http://www.crier.rs>). The interpretation could be sought in lower health consciousness levels on the one hand, which is to be expected at the respondents' age, and unwillingness to compromise on taste on the other.

This interpretation matches some research conducted worldwide. As regards the argument suggesting that rejection of goat milk is due to the younger respondents' lower health consciousness, an example of similar results elsewhere is a study of organic products, where one of the essential purchase motives is health (Hughner *et al.*, 2007). Another comparison is a research of functional products. Functional products emerged by the initiative of the representatives of the Japanese government in order to combat the anticipated trend of increasing chronic illnesses in their society (Shimizu, 2003), in the situation where the consumers worldwide are aware of and informed about the importance of nutrition for health, and their expectations from food are no longer related to survival, satiating hunger or even safety, but actually the potential contribution of diet to health (Diplock *et al.*, 1999). Although there are differences between certain studies depending on product categories, a part of the articles actually explains that older people, due to their awareness of their own health, among other things, are more likely to purchase organic (Hughner *et al.*, 2007) or functional products (Childs & Poryzees, 1998). Bhaskaran and Hardley (2002) conclude that only about 20 % of young consumers who participated in their research, are driven by health attributes when buying food, while, unlike them, older consumers' behavior can be qualified as preventive.

Moreover, as regards the second argument, suggesting rejection of goat milk due to unwillingness to compromise about taste, good examples are the studies (in this specific case, of functional products) confirming that consumers, even in the case of health-beneficial products, do not show a high degree of willingness to compromise on taste (Tourila & Cardelo, 2002; Verbeke, 2006).

The second fact resulting from the research is that, unlike the second market segment and the total sample, the first market segment prefers fruit flavored yoghurts as innovation on the Serbian market, and that it shows statistically significant difference from the second segment in terms of higher share of female respondents. This matches the studies regarding the difference between genders in their attitudes to food. Beardsworth *et al.*, (2002) describe two patterns: one, which they call robust, denoting men's attitudes to food, and the other, called virtuous, reflecting women's attitude to food. Among other things, this implies that men are more traditional in terms of food, unlike women, who are more likely to accept new products. In this case, higher acceptance level of fruit-flavored yoghurts as innovation on the Serbian market by women confirms the above mentioned patterns.

Although the total sample consists of young people aged 19 to 29, even in such relatively narrow age interval, there is statistically significant difference between market segments, where the first market segment, which found it by

far most important for yoghurt to be produced from cow milk and preferred fruit flavored yoghurts, comprised younger respondents. There are, however, other studies that found a difference between age groups, also within a relatively narrow age interval (e.g. young adults aged 25 to 34 and early middle-aged, 35 to 44) (Krystallis *et al.*, 2008).

It is, however, also necessary to consider the managerial implications of the obtained results. If the results of the conjoint analysis were observed in terms of the total sample, it could be concluded that yoghurt consumers in the student populations are predominantly traditionalists – they find it the most important for yoghurt to be made from cow milk, without added fruit, with medium milk fat content. However, upon preference based market segmentation, we also get a picture of the market segment that prefers fruit-flavored yoghurts as innovation on the national market, which is statistically significantly different in terms of proportion of younger respondents, women, and those consuming yoghurt less frequently. These respondents find taste the most important, i.e. their favorite yoghurt must be made from cow milk, which, together with its other mentioned characteristics, qualifies them as gourmets inclined to innovation. These respondents show statistically significant difference from those in the other market segment in terms of their loyalty to Imlek, which is also most represented at the entire sample level, as shown in the already cited research of Progressive Magazin on the entire population of Serbia.

The stated above points to multiple implications for managers. Bearing in mind that these are predominantly young women, it is necessary to form a marketing mix targeting this segment, and position it in their conscience. Additional motivation research is necessary in order to obtain the opinions, inclinations and habits of this population, which could partly have been covered by this questionnaire, but was omitted due to the focus on other questions for the purpose of this article. The product's visual identity, pricing, distribution channels, and integrated marketing communication activities need to be adjusted to the mentioned population and their preferences. For instance, if the research showed that developing a new product for this market segment would be profitable for Imlek, it could be assumed that the marketing mix should be created with "feminine" colored 0.5 litre packaging, at a somewhat higher price, both due to ingredients and the lower frequency of yoghurt consumption. In addition, the product should be promoted in time slots of the TV serials watched by 20-year-old girls (certainly Turkish TV serials popular on national TV channels), the billboards should be located near the University campus, and also advertised through radio stations most frequently listened by this population. Sales promotion actions could be initiated in fitness centres, especially at the times of aerobic exercises, and the group instructors, as opinion leaders, could be educated and stimulated with certain rewards. The promotion should also focus on taste, show pieces of fruit in the yogurt, the energy of the pretty girl featuring in the commercial, forming the image of a young, successful, strong female whose lifestyle includes accepting innovation.

On the other hand, respondents in the second market segment, including mostly men, older than members of the first market segment, are firm traditionalists. The yoghurt

they prefer – without fruit, made from cow milk, with medium milk fat content, is produced predominantly by Mlekara Sabac or Somboled. After the additional research, which is also necessary for these consumers as for consumers from the segment described above, the visual identity would certainly need to be formed so as to be acceptable for men as well, set a somewhat lower price due to more frequent consumption, organize the distribution so as to make the yoghurt available in bakeries and patisseries traditionally selling burek (traditional cheese or meat pie) as energy-giving food, whereas in supermarkets, this product could be placed near beer, another product popular among this population. In promotion, it would be definitely recommendable to emphasize that yoghurt fits into traditional menus, and also to focus on its importance for the organism when doing sports, or as a food supplement for those who cannot have regular meals due to working hours (in view of the fact that some of the student population at this age are already employed). In addition, opinion leaders to be educated and motivated to recommend such product to the target population are trainers at gyms, which the members of this population often attend.

Conclusions

Market segmentation constitutes a part of strategic marketing and implies dividing the market into smaller parts that are homogenous inside, and heterogeneous in relation to each other. As well as being a significant area of academic research, market segmentation has proven to be very useful concept to managers, so that issues related to market segmentation have been the subject of lively discussion both among theoreticians and practitioners. Issues emerging in such discourse as relevant can be summarized in several topics: managerial relevance and implementation, market segmentation variables, choice of variables, robustness of segmentation outputs (Quinn & Dibb, 2010) and have been relevant for more than three decades.

Differences in consumers' preferences are among the most significant causes of market segmentation, but the number of scientific articles dealing with this issue is limited. This article demonstrated the application of preference-based market segmentation by means of conjoint analysis combined with cluster analysis. The subject of the analysis was preferences to yoghurt among the student population in Vojvodina (northern province of the Republic of Serbia). In addition to the results at the total sample level, two segments were identified, and implications shown for managerial decisions stemming from identifying these segments. Finally, demonstration of the application of the chosen approach also enables considering its advantages in terms of clarifying relevant questions related to market segmentation. In addition to the already suggested and demonstrated managerial relevance and implementation, set as one of the priorities of market segmentation (Quinn & Dibb, 2010), the article also demonstrated (by means of a questionnaire with a relatively small number of questions) which segmentation variables are significant for profiling market segments – in this example, gender, age and frequency of yoghurt consumption (thus enabling the identification and selection of market segmentation variables - Quinn & Dibb, 2010).

Including additional questions and extending the number of products could result in generalizing variables relevant to consumers' preference to, for instance, food, which could even result in generating a model that would describe factors influencing consumers preference for food (in this case), and a clearer definition of variables relevant to individual product groups (theoretical corroboration of heterogeneity, aimed at identifying variables to be included in models – Wedel & Karamakura, 2002). This

approach enables higher degree of comparability of results at different points of time, in different parts of the world (i.e. enables understanding the dynamic nature of preferences and composition of market segments – Wedel & Kamakura, 2002). In addition to the above, comparison with the results of realized purchases could enable the research of factors hindering the transition of consumers from the affective (preference) to behavioral (purchase) phase in consumer behavior.

Appendicies

CHI-SQUARE TESTS												
GENDER COMPARISON BETWEEN CLUSTERS (MARKET SEGMENTS)						ACCOMMODATION COMPARISON BETWEEN CLUSTERS (MARKET SEGMENTS)						
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)	Point Probability
Pearson Chi-Square	4,924 ^a	1	0,026			Pearson Chi-Square	,269 ^a	3	0,966	0,968		
Continuity Correction ^b	3,861	1	0,049									
Likelihood Ratio	5,291	1	0,021			Likelihood Ratio	0,273	3	0,965	0,968		
Fisher's Exact Test				0,041	0,022	Fisher's Exact Test	0,403			0,968		
Linear-by-Linear Association	4,874	1	0,027			Linear-by-Linear Association	,039 ^b	1	0,844	0,916	0,464	0,083
N of Valid Cases	98					N of Valid Cases	98					
a. 0 cells (,0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 8,37.						a. 2 cells (25,0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1,26.						
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table						b. The standardized statistic is ,197.						

		gender		Total	
		male	female		
		Ward Method	1	Count	4
% within Ward Method	9,8%			90,2%	100,0%
% within gender	20,0%			47,4%	41,8%
% of Total	4,1%			37,8%	41,8%
2	Count		16	41	57
	% within Ward Method		28,1%	71,9%	100,0%
	% within gender		80,0%	52,6%	58,2%
Total	% of Total	16,3%	41,8%	58,2%	
	Count	20	78	98	
	% within Ward Method	20,4%	79,6%	100,0%	
	% within gender	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	
	% of Total	20,4%	79,6%	100,0%	

INDEPENDENT SAMPLES TEST										
Numeric variables with normal distribution		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
cow	Equal variances assumed	,932	,337	10,687	96	,000	1,47367	,13789	1,19996	1,74737
	Equal variances not assumed			10,941	92,624	,000	1,47367	,13469	1,20618	1,74115

		F	Sig.	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
goat	Equal variances assumed	,932	,337	-10,687	96	,000	-1,47367	,13789	-1,74737	-1,19996
	Equal variances not assumed			-10,941	92,624	,000	-1,47367	,13469	-1,74115	-1,20618
2.8%	Equal variances assumed	8,344	,005	-1,946	96	,055	-,27985	,14381	-,56531	,00560
	Equal variances not assumed			-2,124	90,929	,036	-,27985	,13179	-,54163	-,01807
3.2%	Equal variances assumed	,509	,477	2,947	96	,004	,40161	,13629	,13107	,67214
	Equal variances not assumed			3,038	94,014	,003	,40161	,13217	,13917	,66404
none	Equal variances assumed	10,611	,002	-5,977	96	,000	-1,14655	,19182	-1,52731	-,76579
	Equal variances not assumed			-6,449	93,722	,000	-1,14655	,17780	-1,49959	-,79351
wild berries	Equal variances assumed	,764	,384	4,135	96	,000	,51899	,12552	,26983	,76814
	Equal variances not assumed			4,273	94,369	,000	,51899	,12146	,27783	,76015
PET pottle	Equal variances assumed	,539	,464	,245	96	,807	,01143	,04659	-,08106	,10392
	Equal variances not assumed			,253	94,005	,801	,01143	,04519	-,07829	,10115
carton	Equal variances assumed	,539	,464	-,245	96	,807	-,01143	,04659	-,10392	,08106
	Equal variances not assumed			-,253	94,005	,801	-,01143	,04519	-,10115	,07829
1 litre	Equal variances assumed	,765	,384	-3,402	96	,001	-,23466	,06898	-,37158	-,09773
	Equal variances not assumed			-3,440	89,614	,001	-,23466	,06821	-,37019	-,09913
0.2 litre	Equal variances assumed	3,383	,069	4,099	96	,000	,27198	,06635	,14028	,40368
	Equal variances not assumed			4,264	95,234	,000	,27198	,06379	,14535	,39862

MANN-WHITNEY U TEST STATISTICS ^a				
<i>Numeric variables that do not have normal distribution</i>		Wilcoxon W	Z	Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)
age	874,000	1735,000	-2,209	,027
milk frequency	847,500	1550,500	-,857	,391
yoghurt frequency	865,000	1726,000	-2,368	,018
food spending	1081,000	2734,000	-,657	,511
Imlek	805,000	2458,000	-2,618	,009
Mlekara Subotica	937,500	2590,500	-1,664	,096
Somboled	1070,500	1931,500	-,706	,480
Mlekara Sabac	842,000	1703,000	-2,352	,019
0%	792,000	2445,000	-2,712	,007
0.5%	1071,000	2724,000	-,702	,482
1.5%	731,000	1592,000	-3,151	,002
strawberry	871,500	2524,500	-2,139	,032
apricot	582,500	2235,500	-4,221	,000
sour cherry	1098,000	2751,000	-,508	,612
none	1001,000	1862,000	-1,207	,228
probiotic	879,500	2532,500	-2,082	,037
immuno	1125,000	1986,000	-,313	,754
present	1125,000	1986,000	-,313	,754
none	1125,000	2778,000	-,313	,754
½ litre	1154,500	2015,500	-,101	,920

a. Grouping Variable: Ward Method

Ranks				
	Ward Method	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
age	1	41	42,32	1735,00
	2	57	54,67	3116,00
	Total	98		
yoghurt frequency	1	41	42,10	1726,00
	2	57	54,82	3125,00
	Total	98		

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Jungtinės ir klasterinės analizės, skirtos preferencijų pagrįstam rinkos segmentavimui, naudojimas

Santrauka

Rinkos segmentavimas reiškia rinkos suskirstymą į mažesnes dalis. Segmentai nėra homogeninės vartotojų grupės, natūraliai atsirandančios rinkoje. Jos būna nustatytos rinkodaros vadybininko strategine nuožiūra. Rinkos segmentavimas yra strateginio marketingo dalis. Ją sudaro tikslinės rinkos nustatymas ir pozicionavimas, prieš kuriuos eina marketingo tyrimas, o paskui marketingo komplekso (produkto, kainos, paskirstymo ir rėmimo) kūrimas, įdiegimas bei kontrolė.

Rinkos segmentavimo sąvoka vadybininkams pasirodė ne tik naudinga, bet ir įdomi akademiniam tyrimams atlikti. Klausimai, kurie buvo aktualūs daugiau nei tris dešimtmečius ir susiję su rinkos segmentavimu (valdymo aktualumas ir įgyvendimas, rinkos segmentavimo kintamieji, kintamųjų pasirinkimas, rinkos segmentavimo našumo patikimumas), yra aktualūs ir iki šių dienų, tik su tam tikrais pakeitimais kalbant apie nurodytų klausimų prioritetų vietą. Vienas iš aktualių klausimų, kuris laikomas pagrindine problema ir skirtas šiam darbui: preferencijų pagrįsto rinkos segmentavimo tyrimas. Daugelis tikslų, susijusių su nurodyta problema, yra nustatyti. Visų pirma, kalba eina apie adekvačios metodikos, kuria nurodytas segmentavimas galėtų būti apibūrinamas šiame darbe, t. y. *reitingais pagrįstos jungtinės analizės*, (kartu su klasterine analize), naudojimo pristatymas ir demonstravimas. Be jau anksčiau tirtų dalykų, šiame darbe numatyti ir apibūrinti kiti *darbo tikslai*: iširti nurodyto metodo galimybes, pranašumus ir pasekmes moksliniu ir valdymo aspektu. Skirtumai tarp vartotojų preferencijų yra vienas iš reikšmingiausių rinkos segmentavimo priežasčių. Darbų nagrinėjančių nurodytą temą, nėra daug. Preferencijomis pagrįstas rinkos segmentavimas gali būti atliktas, naudojant jungtinę ir klasterinę analizę kartu. Jungtinė analizė naudojama tais atvejais, kai sprendimų priėmėjas turi rinktis tarp alternatyvų, t. y. kai tuo pačiu metu išaiškėja daugiau kaip dvi savybės. Tokiu būdu ši analizė naudojama ne tik rinkos segmentavime, bet ir nagrinėjant skirtingus rinkodaros klausimus. Klasterinė analizė tai yra sąvoka, kuri vartojama tam, kad būtų aprašyta statistinių procedūrų visuma ir būtų atrastos klasifikacijos sudėtinio duomenų rinkinio viduje, turint tikslą sugrupuoti objektus į klasterius tokiu būdu, kad objektai, esantys klasterio viduje, turėtų daugiau tarpusavyje charakteristikų, nei objektai, esantys už klasterio ribų. Šiame darbe parodytas minėto metodo naudojimas, atliekant studentų populiacijos Vojvodinoje (Serbijos respublikos šiaurės apskritis) tyrimą bei minėtos populiacijos teikiamos pirmenybės jogurtui tyrimą. Sudarant klausimą, išrinktos tam tikros jogurto savybės ir jų kokybė, kurių deriniai buvo pateikti respondentams tam, kad jie juos įvertintų. Išskirtos savybės, (atitinkančios ankstesnius rinkodaros agentūros tyrimus), tirtos siekiant

išsiaiškinti vartotojų jogurto pirkimo įpročius Serbijos respublikoje. Rezultatai buvo paskelbti 2011 ir 2012 metais „Progressive Magazin“ leidinyje. Darbo autoriai konsultavosi dėl jogurto savybių ir jų lygmenų parinkimo su pieno produktų pramonės atstovais. Pateiktas klausimynas turėjo ir tam tikrų klausimų, susijusių su respondentų sociodemografinėmis, psichografinėmis ir elgsenos charakteristikomis. Nurodyti klausimai susiję su respondentų amžiumi ir lytimi, gyvenimu studijavimo metu, pieno ir jogurto vartojimo dažnumu, taip pat pinigų suma, kurią išleidžia maistui kiekvieną mėnesį.

Sudarant klausimyną, konsultuotasi su daugeliu kitų ekspertų, kurie išmano rinkodaros tyrimus. Atlikto preliminarus tyrimo metu, kuriame dalyvavo 32 studentai, paaiškėjo, kad kai kuriuos klausimus reikia naujai suformuluoti. Vėliau tyrimas buvo atliktas 2012 metų gegužės mėnesį. Daugelis asistentų, kurie dėsto Novi Sad universitete, padalino studentams klausimynus paskaitos pabaigoje ir paprašė juos gražinti užpildytus po pertraukos, trunkančios apie 1 valandą. Studentams buvo paaiškinta, kad tokiu būdu yra skatinama naudotis rinkodaros tyrimo metodu, kuris beveik nenaudojamas vietinėse sąlygose. Skatinant studentus domėtis rinkodara, jiems buvo pasiūlyta, po klausimyno užpildymo, dalyvauti specialiai organizuotoje paskaitoje, kurios metu jie galėtų daugiau sužinoti apie minėtą metodą. Respondentų buvo paprašyta, kad jie įvertintų preferenciją, teikiamą kiekvienam pavieniui, pasiūlytam jogurto savybių ir jų lygmenų deriniui, nuo 0 (jogurto preferencijos mažiausias lygis) iki 10 (aukščiausias lygis). Buvo išdalinta 250 klausimynų, gražinta 123. Eliminavus respondentų klausimynus, kurie nevertė pasirinkto produkto arba kurių preferencijos visiems pasiūlytiems produktams įvertintos vienodai, liko 98 klausimynai, kurie buvo įtraukti į galutinę analizę.

Atlikus apklausą nustatyta, kad didesnę įtaką, teikiant pirmenybę jogurtui, turi pieno rūšis, iš kurios jis gaminamas. Remiantis santykinę jogurto preferencijos reikšmę išskirtos šios savybės: vaisių buvimas, pieno riebumo sudėtis, gamintojas, tam tikra paskirtis, talpa. Tačiau pakuotės ir laktozės jogurte buvimas beveik vienodas ir jis turi mažiausią įtaką. Vėliau įtrauktos į analizę preferencijos, teikiamos pavieniui savybių lygmeniui. Tai galima nustatyti, palyginant naudingumo vertę visiems vienos savybės lygmenims. Remiantis rezultatais, galima daryti išvadą, kad „idealus jogurtas“ yra pagamintas iš karvės pieno, be vaisių, su 1,5 proc. pieno riebumu, „Imlek“ ženklo. Dar galima pridurti, kad visi repondentai ypač teikė pirmenybę jogurtui, neturinčiam atskiros paskirties, 1 litro talpos, be laktozės bei kartoninėje pakuotėje.

Remiantis bendro pavyzdžio rezultatais, naudojant klasterinę analizę bei remiantis teikiama savybių pavieniui jogurto savybių lygmenims, nustatyti du segmentai. Vėliau, naudojant tam tikrus statistinius testus, buvo ištirti skirtumai tarp jų. Pirmą rinkos segmentą sudaro vartotojai, kurie laiko pačiu svarbiausiu aspektu tai, kad jogurtas būtų pagamintas iš kokybiško pieno. Antroje vietoje, (su daugiau nei tris kartus mažiausiu reikšmingumo lygmeniu) yra vaisiai jogurte. Taigi, skirtingai nuo visų ankstesnių respondentų rezultatų, vartotojai šiame rinkos segmente teikia pirmenybę vaisiniams jogurtams (pirmenybių seka pagal šios savybės lygmenis yra tokia: miško uogų skonio jogurtas, braškių skonio jogurtas, vyšnių skonio jogurtas, abrikosų skonio jogurtas ir pačioje sąrašo pabaigoje jogurtas be jokių papildomų skonių). Kita pagal reikšmę savybė yra susijusi su pieno riebumo procentu, kur pirmenybė teikiama 0,5 proc. pieno riebumo jogurtui, o tik paskui savybė susijusi su gamintoju, kur pirmenybė teikiama „Imlek“ gamintojo jogurtui. Antrą rinkos segmentą sudaro respondentai, kuriems trys savybės yra panašaus reikšmingumo lygmenio: vaisių buvimas jogurte, pienas, iš kurio pagamintas jogurtas, taip pat pieno riebumo procentas. Šios rinkos segmento vartotojai teikia pirmenybę nevaisiniam jogurtui, pagamintam iš karvės pieno ir turinčiam 1,5 proc. pieno riebumo. Mėgstamiausias šio segmento dalyvių jogurto gamintojas yra „Mlekara Šabac“, paskui „Somboled“, o „Imlek“ tik paskutinėje vietoje. Šios rinkos segmento vartotojai, kaip ir pirmo segmento, teikia pirmenybę jogurtui be tam tikros paskirties, be laktozės ir kartoninėje pakuotėje, nors šių savybių reikšmingumo lygmuo, lyginant su anksčiau išvardintu, yra santykinai mažesnis.

Kai į tyrimą įtraukiami sociodemografiniai ir elgsenos kriterijai, esantys klausimyne, nustatyta, kad skiriasi du rinkos segmentų dalyviai nuo kitų: vyresnis amžius, jį sudaro daugiau vyrų ir vartotojai, kurie priklauso šiam rinkos segmentui daug dažniau vartoja jogurtą. Gauti rezultatai yra paaiškinti panašiuose tyrimuose visame pasaulyje. Iš gautų rezultatų galima pastebėti ir tam tikras valdymo implikacijas. Taigi remiantis minėtais skirtumais, darbe pateikiamos konkrečios rekomendacijos pirmam, ir atitinkamai antram marketingo komplekso segmentui. Demonstruojant parinkto metodo naudojimą, galima pastebėti jo pranašumus, turint omenyje aktualių klausimų, susijusių su rinkos segmentavimu, aiškinimąsi. Šalia jau pasiūlyto ir parodyto valdymo aktualumo ir įgyvendimo, kuris laikomas vienu iš rinkos segmentavimo prioritetų, parodyta (ir tai klausimyne, kuriame palyginti mažai klausimų), kokie segmentavimo kintamieji yra svarbūs rinkos segmentų profilavimo metu. Nurodytame pavyzdyje tai yra lytis, amžius bei jogurto vartojimo dažnumas (t. y. galimas rinkos segmentavimo kintamųjų nustatymas ir kintamųjų pasirinkimas). Įtraukiant papildomus klausimus bei didinant produktų skaičių, galima būtų apibendrinti kintamuosius, svarbius vartotojų preferencijoms. Lyginant maistą galima būtų sugeneruoti modelį, kuris apibūdintų veiksnius, turinčius įtaką vartotojų teikiama savybių pirmenybėms (šiuo atveju maistui). Taip pat aiškiau nustatyti kintamuosius, kurie svarbūs tam tikroms produktų grupėms (teoriškai pagrįsti heterogeniškumą, turint tikslą nustatyti kintamuosius, kurie būtų įtraukti į modelius). Nurodytas metodas leidžia palyginti rezultatus skirtingu metu, skirtinguose pasaulio kraštuose (t. y. leidžia suprasti dinaminę teikiama savybių pirmenybių savybę bei marketingo segmento sudedamąsias dalis). Taigi be to, kas pasakyta, lyginant įvykdyto pirkimo duomenis, leista ištirti faktorius, kurie užkerta kelią pereiti vartotojams iš emocinės fazės (teikiama pirmenybės) į elgesio fazę (pirkimas) vartotojo elgsenoje.

Raktažodžiai: *marketingo tyrimai, rinkos segmentavimas, rinkos segmentavimo kriterijai, preferencijų pagrįstas rinkos segmentavimas, jungtinė analizė, klasterinė analizė.*

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