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MY SUCCESS IS YOUR SUCCESS – THE BOOK **A critical reading**

In a perspective of supporting the reader, we used the Copilot AI software in order to offer two levels of critical analysis of the book *My Success Is Your Success*.

A: A critical approach

B: A Critical Comparison with other authors



A: A CRITICAL APPROACH

My Success Is Your Success by Germain Decelles is a 404-page self-published work in the self-help and change-management genre (WebTech Publishing / Lulu, ISBN 978-1-7388000-0-1; also available in French as *Mon succès est votre succès*). Decelles—a Canadian business consultant, change-management strategist, and an executive with more than four decades of experience in retail, IT, manufacturing, finance, and government—presents the book as part of a broader series on personal and organizational transformation.

The title's paradox, “My Success Is Your Success,” encapsulates the author’s central argument: personal achievement is both an individual responsibility and a collective good. By guiding readers toward their own success, Decelles sees himself as advancing his mission to “spark new intellectual capital” and “disturb the present in order to bring forth a better LIFE.”

Structure and Rhetorical Approach

The book adopts a deliberately non-linear, interactive format. Its twelve thematic chapters—covering topics such as meaningful living, self-discovery, attitude, personal agency, intellectual capacity, wellness, and common sense—follow a recurring sequence of **Questions** → **Reflections** → **Answers**. Readers are prompted to confront probing self-inquiries, reinterpret personal challenges, and then consider the author’s prescriptive guidance.

This hybrid of Socratic questioning and workbook-style exercises is the book’s most distinctive feature. Rather than presenting dense theory, Decelles relies on accessible lists, quotations, bullet-point advice, and motivational aphorisms. For example, a section on cultivating a positive attitude offers twenty-one practical suggestions—ranging from morning routines to gratitude practices—alongside psychological observations presented with citations from prominent people.

The tone is consistently empowering and inclusive, addressing a wide spectrum of readers (“students, parents, workers, educators, artists, athletes ... retirees”), while maintaining an implicitly meritocratic stance: success is portrayed as something achieved through one’s own actions or inaction.

Core Arguments and Ideological Foundations

Decelles advances a clear and optimistic thesis: success—whether financial, spiritual, relational, or legacy-oriented—is attainable through intentional self-examination, mindset adjustment, continuous improvement, and the cultivation of interpersonal skills. Several recurring themes structure the book’s worldview:

- **Radical personal responsibility:** individuals are solely accountable for transforming their lives.
- **Mindset as a causal force:** attitude shapes outcomes more powerfully than external circumstances.
- **Interdependence within individualism:** although success is personally earned, it grows through supportive relationships, delegation, family networks, and shared moral values framed as “common sense.”
- **A change-management perspective:** concepts such as proactive adaptation, innovation, cognitive bias, and strategic goal-setting reflect the author’s corporate background.

B: A CRITICAL COMPARISON WITH OTHER AUTHORS

1. Stephen R. Covey — *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*

Convergence

Both Decelles and Covey emphasize **interdependence** as a higher stage of personal development. Covey’s “public victory” (Habits 4–6) mirrors Decelles’s thesis that success is relational and mutually reinforcing. Both authors reject hyper-individualism and argue that personal growth naturally extends to collective benefit.

Divergence

Covey grounds his framework in a **structured, quasi-philosophical system** (character ethics, paradigms, principles). Decelles, by contrast, relies on **common-sense reasoning** and motivational clarity rather than a formalized model. Covey's work is more prescriptive and systematic; Decelles' is more reflective and humanistic.

Critical insight:

Covey provides a conceptual architecture; Decelles provides an ethical orientation.

2. Simon Sinek — *Leaders Eat Last and Start With Why*

Convergence

Sinek and Decelles share a belief in **service-oriented leadership**. Both argue that leaders succeed by elevating others, fostering trust, and creating environments where people thrive. The relational ethos in *My Success Is Your Success* aligns closely with Sinek's "Circle of Safety."

Divergence

Sinek's arguments are supported by **organizational case studies, biological metaphors, and social science research**. Decelles's approach is more intuitive and philosophical, without empirical scaffolding. Sinek's tone is investigative; Decelles' is contemplative.

Critical insight:

Sinek operationalizes interdependence; Decelles moralizes it.

3. Dale Carnegie — *How to Win Friends and Influence People*

Convergence

Both authors emphasize the **importance of relationships** in personal and professional success. Carnegie's focus on empathy, listening, and mutual benefit resonates with Decelles's relational model of success.

Divergence

Carnegie's work is fundamentally **pragmatic and technique-driven**, offering behavioral strategies for interpersonal influence. Decelles's book is a **principle-driven**, focusing on the mindset and ethical orientation rather than tactics.

Critical insight:

Carnegie teaches *how* to build relationships; Decelles explains *why* shared success matters.

4. Brené Brown — *Dare to Lead and The Gifts of Imperfection*

Convergence

Brown and Decelles both foreground **vulnerability, authenticity, and ethical responsibility**. They share a humanistic vision of leadership rooted in courage, empathy, and mutual uplift.

Divergence

Brown's work is grounded in **qualitative research**, particularly grounded theory. Her claims are supported by data and academic methodology. Decelles's reasoning is **experiential and philosophical**, not empirical.

Critical insight:

Brown provides a research-based emotional framework; Decelles provides a moral-philosophical one.

5. James Clear — *Atomic Habits*

Convergence

Both authors emphasize **continuous improvement** and the cumulative impact of small actions. They share an optimistic view of human potential and personal agency.

Divergence

Clear's work is **behavioral and systems-oriented**, focusing on habit loops, cues, and measurable change. Decelles's work is **value-oriented**, focusing on ethical responsibility and relational success rather than behavioral mechanics.

Critical insight:

Clear explains how individuals change; Decelles explains why change should benefit others.

6. Peter Senge — *The Fifth Discipline*

Convergence

Senge's systems thinking aligns strongly with Decelles's idea that success is an **ecosystem**. Both authors argue that individuals and organizations thrive through interconnectedness, shared vision, and collective learning.

Divergence

Senge's work is deeply **theoretical and organizational**, drawing on systems theory, cybernetics, and learning organizations. Decelles' work is **personal and ethical**, not technical or systemic.

Critical insight:

Senge provides the system theory Decelles implicitly gestures toward but does not formalize.

7. Viktor Frankl — *Man's Search for Meaning*

Convergence

Both authors emphasize **purpose, responsibility, and the ethical dimension of human action**. Frankl's idea that meaning emerges through service to others resonates with Decelles's relational model of success.

Divergence

Frankl's work is existential and grounded in extreme lived experience. Decelles's work is motivational and grounded in everyday life. Frankl's claims are philosophical and psychological; Decelles' is ethical and practical.

Critical insight:

Frankl provides existential justification; Decelles provides practical applications.

Synthesis: Where Decelles Fits in the Intellectual Landscape

Decelles' *My Success Is Your Success* can be understood as part of a **humanistic tradition** that includes:

- Carnegie's relational pragmatism
- Covey's principle-centered leadership
- Sinek's service-oriented leadership
- Brown's vulnerability-based ethics
- Senge's systems thinking
- Frankl's existential responsibility

However, Decelles's distinctive contribution is his **moral reframing of success** as inherently shared. Unlike authors who focus on performance, influence, or organizational dynamics, Decelles foregrounds **ethical interdependence** as the foundation of meaningful achievement.

His work is less empirical, less technical, and less systematized than many of these authors—but more **philosophically unified** around a single ethical proposition:
your success and mine are inseparable.

Available:

This 440-page personal development book, available in both French and English and published by WebTech Publishing, is available online at www.lulu.com



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