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The validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the dispositional positive emotion scales

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to examine the validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales (Shiota, Keltner, & John, 2006). Participants were 294 undergraduate students (169 were female and 125 were male) from Sakarya University. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the seven-dimensional model was acceptable ($\chi^2=1490.20$, $df=637$, $RMSEA=.068$, $CFI=.81$, $IFI=.82$, and $SRMR=.081$). The internal consistency coefficients of seven subscales were .78, .82, .72, .63, .83, .49 and .65, respectively. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had adequate validity and reliability scores and that it may be used as a valid and reliable instrument in order to assess disposition positive emotions (joy, contentment, pride, love, compassion, amusement, and awe) levels of individuals.

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1. Introduction

Emotions are central to the scientific study as well as for the commonsense understanding of human behavior; yet there exists no unanimous definition for the concept of emotion (Gross, & Thompson, 2007; Guerrero, Andersen, & Trost, 1998). However, there has been a plethora of research attempting to explain different aspects of emotions such as different types, valence, and structure of emotions. Although there are many competing definitions, emotions can be regarded as a series of universally observed, innate, survival-oriented self-regulation processes (Markus, & Kitayama, 1991) which can be seen as the effort or readiness of the person for building or protecting relationships with the environment, perceived as important (Campos, Frankel, & Camras, 2004).

Studies in behavioral sciences, about emotions often have focused more on the types of negative emotions (Shiota, Keltner, & John, 2006) and positive emotions are generally equated to happiness (e.g., Davidson, 1993;

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Levenson, Ekman, Heider, & Friesen, 1992). For instance Ekman, in earlier studies identified the types of universally observed identified basic emotions as anger, disgust, fear, surprise, sadness, and happiness (e.g. Ekman et al., 1987; Ekman, 1992, 1993). However, there are a number of studies identifying multiple positive emotions as well (e.g. Fehr & Russell, 1984; Fredrickson, 1998; Shaver, Morgan, & Wu, 1996). Similarly, in many studies positive and negative affect or mood are considered as a global constructs and the frequency and intensity of particular emotions are not sufficiently taken into consideration (Pervin, 1993; Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988). Positive emotional experiences such as gratitude (McCullough, Kilpatrick, Emmons, & Larson, 2001), hope (Snyder et al., 1996), interest (Fredrickson, 1998) and elevation (Haidt, 2003), has become more and more at the focus of scientific attention in the past decades. Shiota, Keltner and John (2006) proposed seven positive emotion dispositions based on the previous research on positive emotions in addition to these constructs.

Joy, in other words, happiness, is an emotion with a high level of arousal, enacted when the person perceives clues for an increase in resources in the environment and one must consume energy to achieve the perceived award. Contentment refers to the feeling which is experienced when people perceive that their resources match or exceed the level of their needs. Pride is a social emotion, elicited when one achieves an activity which is socially worthwhile, and enhances the social status and rights for utilizing group resources. Love, is an emotion experienced when the person perceives another person acting as a trustworthy and reliable caregiver, and becomes predisposed to passively receive this care. Compassion, also referred as sympathy is characterized by concern for the welfare of another person, in turn activates nurturing behaviors for significant others in need, especially offsprings, which is enacted by perceiving clues of helplessness, distress, and cuteness. Amusement, also referred as humor, is an emotion elicited when the person experiences a cognitive shift from utilizing one knowledge structure instead of another when contemplating of a target, typically experienced in situations like hearing the punch line of a joke. Awe refers to the emotion which is experienced when one is confronted with stimuli requiring sudden cognitive accommodation such as when encountering highly complex and novel artifacts (Shiota et al., 2006).

1.1. Dispositional positive emotion scales (Shiota et al., 2006)

The Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales (DPES) questionnaire developed within the aforementioned theoretical framework is a self-report instrument composed of 38-item, with seven sub-scales: joy (6 items), contentment (5 items), pride (5 items), love (6 items), compassion (5 items), amusement (5 items), and awe (6 items). Participants report their responses in a 7-point scale format with (1)= “strongly disagree” and (7)= “strongly agree.” The factor structure and the reliability properties of DPES was satisfactory as well as its convergent validity level. Cronbach’s alpha internal consistency coefficients were .82 for joy, .92 for contentment, .80 for pride, .80 for love, .80 for compassion, .75 for amusement, and .78 for awe sub-scales. Correlations of the Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales suggest related but distinct constructs (Shiota et al., 2006). The objective of the present study is to adapt the Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales into Turkish and to test its psychometric validity and reliability properties.

2. Method

2.1. Participants

Participants were 294 undergraduate students (169 were female and 125 were male) from Sakarya University, Turkey.

2.2. Procedure

Firstly two academicians translated Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales into the Turkish. After that the Turkish form was translated back into English and examined the consistency between the Turkish and English forms. Turkish form has reviewed by five academicians from psychological counseling and guidance department in Sakarya University. Finally they examined and discussed the Turkish form of Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales and made some corrections. After that this scale was prepared for validity and reliability analyses. In this research

confirmatory factor analysis was executed to confirm the original scale's structure in Turkish culture. As reliability analysis internal consistency coefficients and the item-total correlations were examined. Data were analyzed by LISREL 8.54 and SPSS 13.0.

3. Results

3.1. Construct Validity

The results of confirmatory factor analysis pointed that the model was acceptable fit ($\chi^2= 1490.20$, $df= 637$, $RMSEA=.068$, $NFI=.71$, $CFI=.81$, $IFI=.82$, $RFI=.68$, $GFI=.79$, and $SRMR=.081$).

3.2. Reliability

The internal consistency coefficients of three subscales were .78 for joy, .82 for contentment, .72 for pride, .63 for love, .83 for compassion, .49 for amusement, and .65 for awe sub-scales. The corrected item total correlations of Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales ranged from .18 to .74.

Table 1. DPES Corrected Item Total Correlations

Mad. No	<i>r_{jt}</i>	Mad. No	<i>r_{jt}</i>	Mad. No	<i>r_{jt}</i>
1	.62	14	.60	27	.62
2	.62	15	.51	28	.18
3	.46	16	.44	29	.28
4	.55	17	.44	30	.38
5	.42	18	.45	31	.40
6	.50	19	.28	32	.28
7	.68	20	.46	33	.24
8	.64	21	.36	34	.34
9	.59	22	.41	35	.43
10	.57	23	.62	36	.47
11	.57	24	.74	37	.50
12	.34	25	.67	38	.33
13	.51	26	.53		

4. Discussion

The purpose of this study was to translate the Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales into Turkish and examine its psychometric properties. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the model was acceptable fit. It can be said that the structural model of the DPES which consists of seven factors was well fit to the Turkish culture. Overall, findings demonstrated that this scale had acceptable validity and reliability scores (Büyüköztürk, 2004; Tabachnick & Fidell, 1996; Tezbaşaran, 1996) and that it may be used as a sufficient instrument in order to assess dispositional positive emotions (joy, contentment, pride, love, compassion, amusement, and awe). However internal consistency reliability coefficients of the amusement, awe, and love subscales were low. Future studies that will use the DPES and examine the concurrent validity and test-retest reliability are important for scales' psychometric effectiveness.

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