



THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF TURKISH VERSION OF THE SELF-FOCUSED ATTENTION SCALE

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Self-Focused Attention Scale (Kiropulos & Klimidis, 2006). The sample of this study consisted of 323 undergraduate students. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the 17 items and four-dimensional self-focused attention model (public body consciousness, private self-consciousness, public self-consciousness, private body consciousness) was well fit ($\chi^2= 273.94$, $df= 105$, RMSEA= .069, GFI= .91, AGFI= .87, and SRMR= .079). The internal consistency reliability coefficients of the scale were .67, .57, .68, .63 for four subscales, respectively.

Key Words: Self-focused attention, validity, reliability, factor analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Self-focused attention is the attention focused internally on aspects of the self, such as, own arousal, behavior, thoughts, emotions, or appearance (Bogels & Mansell, 2004). Theories concur that self-focus can produce or intensify negative affect in certain situations. This process may occur by making current-ideal discrepancies more apparent (Duval & Wicklund, 1972), making individuals aware of a insufficient progress toward goals (Carver & Scheier, 1981), making individuals feel conspicuous (Buss, 1980), or through making individuals aware of negative self-referent information (Ingram, 1990).

The construct of self-focused attention has been implicated in theoretical and empirical contributions to the areas of attitudes, attributions and perspective taking (Bernstein & Davis, 1982; Cohen, Dowling, Bishop, & Maney, 1985; Stephenson & Wicklund, 1983). Self-focused attention has been linked to perceptions of control



(Mikulincer, Gerber, & Weisenberg, 1990), alcohol consumption (Hull, 1981), belief perseverance (Davies, 1982), group interaction (Mullin, 1991), and prosocial behavior (Gibbons & Wicklund, 1982). The purpose of this study is to adapt into Turkish and to examine the validity and reliability of the Self-focused Attention Scale (Kiropulos & Klimidis, 2006).

METHOD

Participants

Participants were 315 university students (130 were male, 185 were female) who were enrolled in mid-size state University, in Turkey.

Measures

Self-focused Attention Scale. The Self-focused Attention Scale is a self-report questionnaire with 17 items rated on a 4-point scale. The scale has four sub-dimensions: public body consciousness (5 items), private self-consciousness (4 items), public self-consciousness (4 items), private body consciousness (4 items). Results of exploratory factor analysis indicated that the four subscales have explained 49% of total variance. Factor loadings ranged from .83 to .49. The Cronbach alpha internal consistency reliability coefficients of the scale were .68, .70, .63, and .54 for four subscales, respectively.

Procedure

Translation of the Self-focused Attention Scale into Turkish was based on the recommendations of Hambleton and Kanjee (1995). As the first step two specialists who were a native Turkish speaker fluent in English translated English version into Turkish. Discrepancies in initial translations were addressed with the assistance of a third independent translator. The Turkish version of the Self-focused Attention Scale was then translated back into English by two English-speaking language specialists who were blinded to the original scale and the objective of the study. The differences between translated versions were evaluated and a satisfactory compliance with the original scale was achieved by consensus of the translators. The completed Turkish version was evaluated for cultural appropriateness by three academicians from department of English Language and Literature, controversial items were determined and necessary modifications were done. The updated version was reevaluated by the original group of expert reviewers, to finalize the Turkish version used in this study.

Permission for participation of students was obtained from related chief departments and students voluntarily participated in research. Completion of the scales was anonymous and there was a guarantee of confidentiality. The scales were administered to the students in groups in the classrooms. Prior to administration of scales, all participants were told about purposes of the study. In this study confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was executed to confirm the original scale's structure in Turkish culture and Cronbach' Alpha reliability coefficient was calculated to examine the reliability. Data were analyzed using LISREL 8.54 and SPSS 15 package programs.

RESULTS

Construct Validity

Confirmatory factor analysis demonstrated that the four-dimensional Self-focused Attention model was well fit ($\chi^2= 273.94$, $df= 105$, $RMSEA= .069$, $GFI= .91$, $AGFI= .87$, and $SRMR= .079$). Factor loads of items belonging Turkish version of Self-focused Attention Scale are presented in Figure 1.

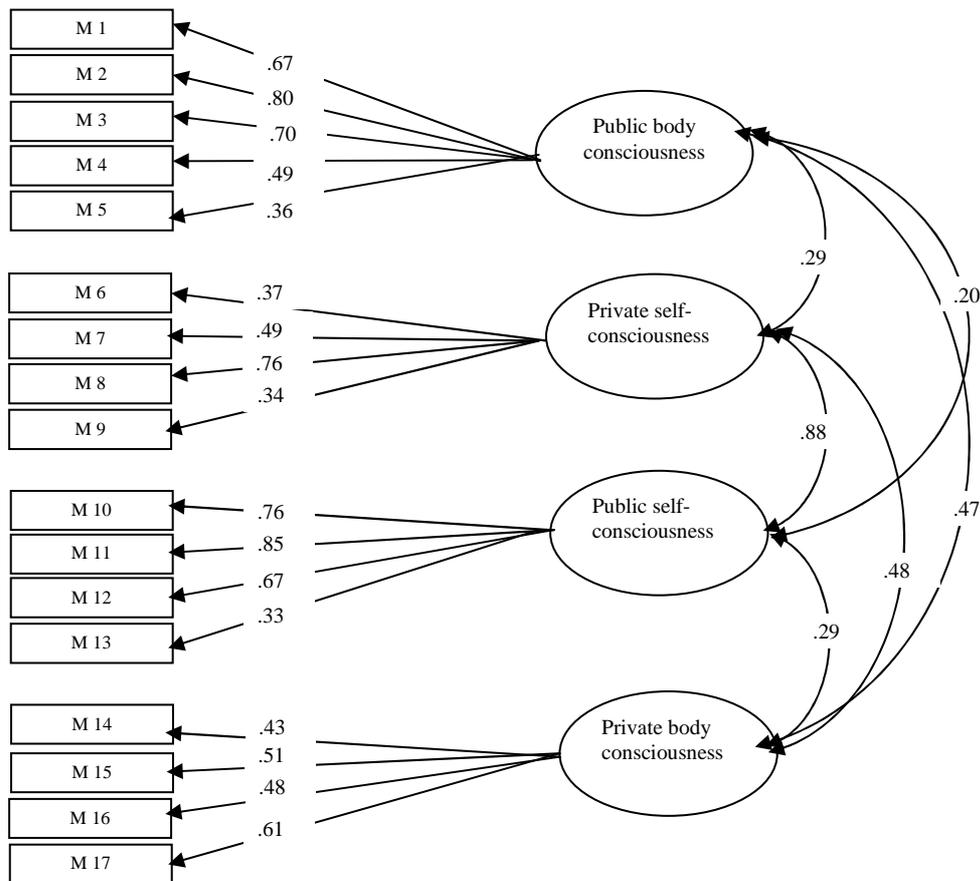


Figure 1: Factor loading for the Turkish version of the Self-focused Attention Scale

Item analysis and Reliability

The Cronbach alpha internal consistency reliability coefficients of the Turkish form were .67, .57, .68, .63 for four subscales, respectively. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .29 to .64.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to translate Self-focused Attention Scale into Turkish and to examine its psychometric properties. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had acceptable validity and reliability scores. Further studies that will examine the convergent validity of the Self-focused Attention Scale are important for its measurement force. Also the temporal stability of the Self-focused Attention Scale may be calculated using test re-test method.

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