



THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF TURKISH VERSION OF THE SANTA CLARA STRENGTH OF RELIGIOUS FAITH QUESTIONNAIRE

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Akin
Sakarya University
TURKEY
aakin@sakarya.edu.tr

Mehmet Emin Turan
Sakarya University
TURKEY
mehmeteminturan@gmail.com

Yunus Altundağ
Sakarya University
TURKEY
yunusaltundag14@hotmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire (Plante & Boccaccini, 1997). The sample of this study consisted of 360 undergraduate students. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that uni-dimensional model was well fit ($\chi^2= 74.61$, $df= 32$, $RMSEA= .060$, $GFI= .96$, $CFI= .97$, $AGFI= .93$, $IFI= .97$, and $SRMR= .034$). The internal consistency reliability coefficient of the scale was .87. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .49 to .72. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had high validity and reliability scores.

Key Words: Strength of religious faith, validity, reliability, confirmatory factor analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Religious faith is important for many people (Plante & Boccaccini, 1997). Religious beliefs, orientations or rituals can display functions and dynamics of psychological needs (Moaddel & Karbenick, 2008). Religion is the sacredly ordained means by which that dignity, esteem, and veneration due to the God is paid by individuals in theology (Abbott, 2009). Religious spokesmen have again and again advocate humanistic and helpful ideals, declare the significance of the peace and love to all humans. Religions defend providing that every individual has honor, esteem, and protection but history shows that ideals and practices may be different (Allen & Spilka, 1967). Religion underlines moral values, beliefs, rituals, and symbol that emphasizes the significance of prosociality in individual's life (Blogowska & Saroglou, 2011).

Religion and religious beliefs are neglected in field of psychology in the past (Jones, 1994; Kirkpatrick & Spilka, 1989; Plante, 1996 cited in Plante & Boccaccini, 1997) but subsequently a lot of study has examined impact of religion on human psychology (Koenig, 1998; Lewis, Shevlin, McGuckin, & Navratil, 2001; Loewenthal, 1995; Schumaker, 1992; Shafranske, 1996 cited in Lewis, Shevlin, McGuckin, & Navratil, 2001). Religious faith has been positively associated with a lot of constructs (Plante & Boccaccini, 1997).

Religiosity and spirituality associated with mental and physical health, coping, well-being, hope, self-empowerment, health behavior, psychological functioning, resiliency, optimism, and self-esteem (Aukst-Margetic, & Margetic, 2005; Büssing, Franczak, & Surzykiewicz, 2014; Chida, Steptoe, & Powell, 2009; Cohen, Jimenez, & Mittal, 2010; Coruh, Ayele, Pugh, & Mulligan, 2005; Forst & Healy, 1990; Koenig, 2009; Pardini et

al. 2000; Plante et al., 1995, 2000; Seeman, Dubin, & Seeman, 2003). Purpose of this study is to adapt into Turkish and to examine the validity and reliability of the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire (Plante & Boccaccini, 1997).

METHOD

Participant

Participants were 360 undergraduate students (196 female, 164 male) who were enrolled in Sakarya University, in Turkey.

Measures

Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire: The Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire (Plante & Boccaccini, 1997) is a self-report questionnaire with 10 items rated on a 4-point scale. High scores indicate higher levels of strength of religious faith. The Cronbach's alpha internal consistency reliability coefficient of the scale was .95.

Translation and Adaptation Process

Primarily the scale was translated into Turkish by two academicians who know English well. After that the Turkish form was back-translated into English and examined the consistency between the Turkish and English forms. Then Turkish form has been reviewed by three academicians from educational sciences department. Finally they discussed the Turkish form and along with some corrections this scale was prepared for validity and reliability analyses. In this study confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was executed to confirm the original scale's structure in Turkish culture and Cronbach's 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 unidimensional model was well fit ($\chi^2= 74.61$, $df= 32$, $RMSEA= .060$, $NFI=.94$, $NNFI=.95$, $GFI= .96$, $AGFI= .93$, $CFI= .97$, $IFI= .97$, $RFI=.92$ and $SRMR= .034$). Factor loads of items belonging Turkish version of the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire are presented in Figure 1.

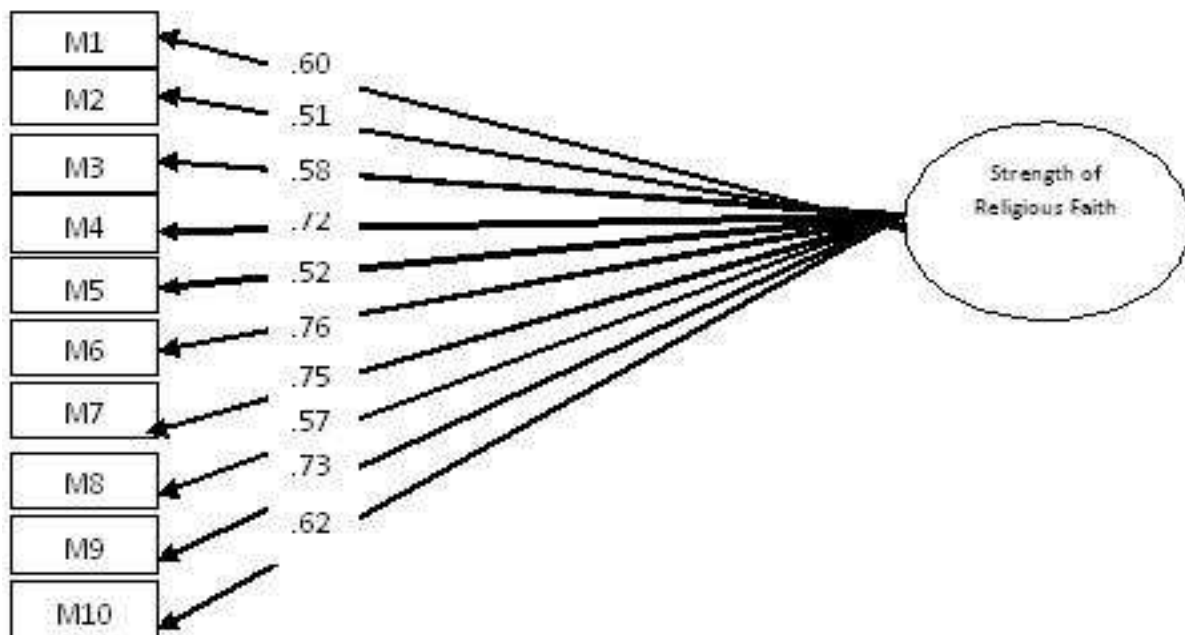


Figure 1: Factor Loadings for the Turkish version of the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire



Item Analysis and Reliability

The Cronbach's alpha internal consistency reliability coefficient of the Turkish form was .87 for overall scale. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .49 to .72.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to translate the Turkish version of the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire 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 Turkish version of the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire are important for its measurement force. Also the temporal stability of the Turkish version of the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire may be calculated using test re-test method.

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