



THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF TURKISH VERSION OF THE REVISED RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM SCALE

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale (Altemeyer & Hunsberger, 2004). The sample of this study consisted of 360 undergraduate students. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale model was well fit ($\chi^2= 123.24$, $df= 40$, $RMSEA= .075$, $GFI= .95$, $CFI= .90$, $RFI= .78$, $IFI= .91$, and $SRMR= .075$). The internal consistency reliability coefficient of the scale was .62.

Key Words: Religious fundamentalism, validity, reliability, confirmatory factor analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Religion is very important for many individuals (Plante & Boccaccini, 1997). There is a reality that rising of religious fundamentalism throughout all of the major religions (Ozzano, 2009). Religious fundamentalists have got extreme values and beliefs that rely on holy texts (Barzilai-Nahon & Barzilai, 2005). The American Protestantism invented term of fundamentalism in 1920s. There was an organization named World Christian Fundamentals Association. This organization published a series of books named Fundamentals. Their desire was the returning to the fundamentals of Christianity but today the term of fundamentalist is meaning that a fanatic faithful individual (Ozzano, 2009).

Religious fundamentalism is different from concepts such as dogmatism, leadership, and integralism. Religious Fundamentalism is a protect of tradition and a rejection of modernity. Religion fundamentalists may distinguish their self from others (Carlucci, Tommasi, & Saggino, 2013). Fundamentalism signifies classifying, discrimination, and denunciation. Social scientists have accused fundamentalism in the discrimination action (Duschinsky, 2012). Individuals will confirm and practice their religious fundamentalist ideas when their religious beliefs are a significant section of their personality (Schaafsma & Williams, 2012). Religious authorities, education, and socioeconomic background can foster religious fundamentalist beliefs and attitudes. Individuals' religious beliefs, orientations, or rituals can give hints about their religious fundamentalist beliefs and attitudes (Moaddel & Karbnick, 2008). Purpose of this study is to adapt into Turkish

and to examine the validity and reliability of the Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale (Altemeyer & Hunsberger, 2004).

METHOD

Participant

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

Measures

Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale: Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale (Altemeyer & Hunsberger, 2004) is a self-report questionnaire with 12 items rated on a 9-point scale (-4 to +4 also include 0). High scores indicate higher levels of religious fundamentalism. The Cronbach's alpha internal consistency reliability coefficient of the scale were .91 for students and .92 for parents sample.

Translation and Adaptation Process

Primarily the scale was translated into Turkish by three 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. Than Turkish form has been reviewed by four 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 ($\chi^2= 123.24$, $df= 40$, $RMSEA= .075$, $GFI= .95$, $CFI= .90$, $IFI= .91$, $RFI= .78$ and $SRMR= .075$). Factor loadings of items belonging Turkish version of the Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale are presented in Figure 1.

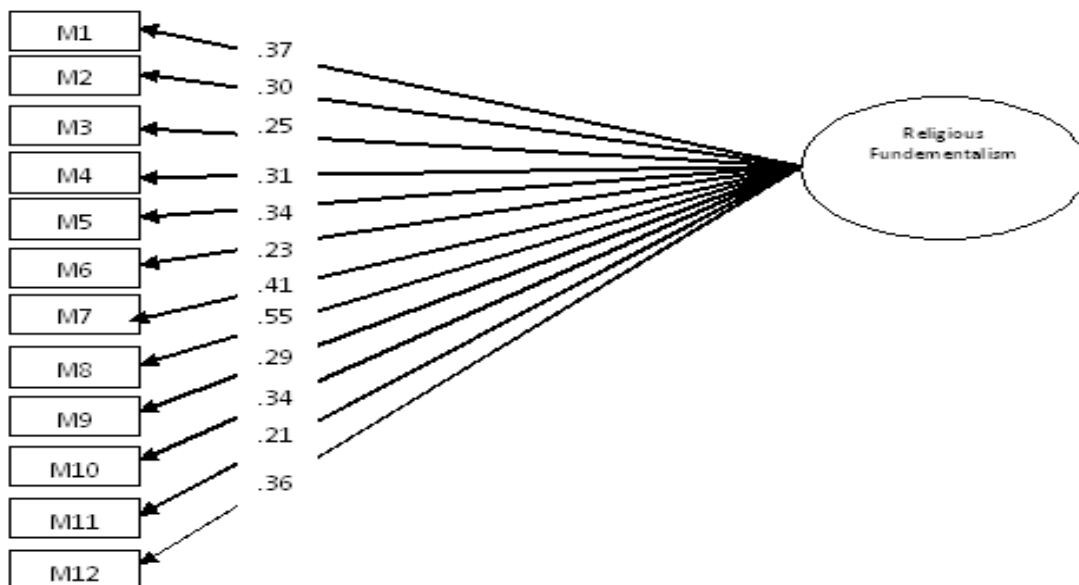


Figure 1: Factor Loadings for the Turkish version of Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale



Item Analysis and Reliability

The Cronbach's alpha internal consistency reliability coefficient of the Turkish form was .62. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .25 to .55. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had adequate validity and reliability scores.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to translate the Turkish version of the Revised Religious Fundamentalism 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 Turkish version of the Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale are important for its measurement force. Also the temporal stability of the Turkish version of the Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale may be calculated using test re-test method.

WJEIS's Note: This article was presented at World Conference on Educational and Instructional Studies - WCEIS, 06- 08 November, 2014, Antalya-Turkey and was selected for publication for Volume 4 Number 4 of WJEIS 2014 by WJEIS Scientific Committee.

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