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THE SHORT-FORM REVISED EYSENCK PERSONALITY QUESTIONNAIRE (EPQR-S): A GERMAN EDITION

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A sample of 331 undergraduate students in Germany completed the German translation of the short form Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR-S; Eysenck, Eysenck, & Barrett, 1985). The findings support the psychometric properties of the extraversion, neuroticism and lie scales. The psychoticism scale, however, was found to be less satisfactory.

Keywords: Short-Form Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire, German

Eysenck's scales for the measurement of personality among adults have been developed and refined over a period of nearly 50 years. One of the consequences of this process has been a progressive increase in their length. The early Maudsley Medical Questionnaire (MMQ) contains 40 items (Eysenck, 1952), the Maudsley Personality Inventory (MPI) contains 48 items (Eysenck, 1959), the Eysenck Personality Inventory (EPI) contains 57 items (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1964a), the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) contains 90 items (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975) and the Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR) contains 100 items (Eysenck, Eysenck, & Barrett, 1985). This increase in length can be accounted for by the introduction of an additional dimension of personality

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within Eysenck's scheme (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1976) and by the psychometric principle that greater length enhances reliability (Lord & Novick, 1968).

There are, however, some practical disadvantages in long tests. In particular, there are numerous occasions when a research project would benefit from including a personality measure, but when an additional 90 or 100 items would increase the overall questionnaire to an unacceptable length. Alongside the full questionnaires there has also been a series of shorter instruments. Eysenck (1958) developed two short indices of extraversion and neuroticism, each containing only 6 items, based on the Maudsley Personality Inventory. Subsequently Eysenck and Eysenck (1964b) developed another pair of 6-item scales to measure extraversion and neuroticism, based on the Eysenck Personality Inventory. Floderus (1974) developed slightly longer indices of extraversion and neuroticism, containing 9 items each, from the Eysenck Personality Inventory. The major limitation with these early short forms is that they are based on Eysenck's original two-dimensional model of personality, rather than the three-dimensional model promoted by the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire and by the Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire.

More recently Eysenck, Eysenck and Barrett (1985) devised a short form of the Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQR-S) for use among adults. In this form the four indices of extraversion, neuroticism, psychoticism and the lie scale each contain 12 items. They report reliabilities for males and females respectively of 0.84 and 0.80 for neuroticism, 0.88 and 0.84 for extraversion, 0.62 and 0.61 for psychoticism, and 0.77 and 0.73 for the lie scale. The EPQR-S has now been used quite widely, including studies by Aleixo and Norris (2000), Blagrove and Akehurst (2001), Chan and Joseph (2000), Chivers and Blagrove (1999), Creed, Muller, and Machin (2001), Francis (1999), Francis and Wilcox (1998), Glicksohn and Bozna (2000), Glicksohn and Golan (2001), Halamandaris and Power (1999), Linton and Wiener (2001), Martin and Kirkaldy (1998), and Robbins, Francis and Rutledge (1997).

In a cross-cultural study, Francis, Brown, and Philipchalk (1992) compared the psychometric properties of the EPQR-S in four English-speaking countries among a total of 685 undergraduate students, including 59 men and 153 women in England, 57 men and 92 women in Canada, 51 men and 81 women in the USA and 53 men and 139 women in Australia. According to this study the short form extraversion scale achieved alpha coefficients of 0.78, 0.83, 0.85 and 0.87 in the four samples. The short form neuroticism scale achieved alpha coefficients of 0.79, 0.80, 0.81 and 0.83 in the four samples. The lie scale performed less well than the extraversion and neuroticism scales, but proved to be adequate. The short form lie scale achieved alpha coefficients of 0.65, 0.66, 0.70 and 0.71.

A problem, however, emerged in relation to the psychoticism scale in the EPQR-S. In the USA sample the short form psychoticism scale recorded an

alpha coefficient of 0.31. In the Canadian sample the short form psychoticism scale recorded an alpha coefficient of 0.41. In the English sample the short form psychoticism scale alpha coefficient rose to 0.51. While independent studies have confirmed the improved psychometric properties of the measure of psychoticism in the full EPQR (Corulla, 1987; Torrubia & Muntaner, 1987), it would seem that further consideration still needs to be given to the psychoticism scale incorporated in the EPQR-S. At present it seems that the short form of the psychoticism scale may function more satisfactorily in some cultures than in others.

While the EPI, EPQ and EPQR were originally developed in England and then extended to other English-speaking areas, the cross-cultural extension of this field of personality research quickly led to the translation and testing of the instruments in non-English speaking environments (Barrett & Eysenck, 1984; Eysenck & Eysenck, 1983).

Against this background, the aim of the present study was to explore the psychometric properties of the German translation of the EPQR-S.

METHOD

TRANSLATION

The EPQR-S (Eysenck, Eysenck & Barrett, 1985) items were translated into German by a bilingual German national and then back-translated into English by a second bilingual German national in order to test for inaccuracies and ambiguities. Where there were inconsistencies in the retranslated English version, both translators were consulted as to the best possible solution.

SAMPLE

Students (127 male and 204 female, total 331) attending the University of Würzburg completed the German translation of the EPQR-S. Of the respondents, 6% were under the age of twenty, 90% were in their twenties, 3% were in their thirties, and 1% were aged forty or over. The data were analysed by the SPSS statistical package, using the reliability and correlation routines (SPSS Inc., 1988).

RESULTS

Table 1 presents the item rest of test correlations for each of the four scales of the EPQR-S, extraversion, neuroticism, psychoticism and the lie scale. The following alpha coefficients (Cronbach, 1951) were reported for the four scales: extraversion, 0.8523; neuroticism, 0.8104; psychoticism, 0.4181; lie scale, 0.6379.

TABLE 1
THE ITEM REST OF TEST CORRELATIONS FOR THE FOUR SCALES OF THE EPQR-S IN GERMANY

	<i>r</i>
<i>Extraversion</i>	
3 Are you a talkative person?	0.6044
7 Are you rather lively?	0.6031
11 Do you enjoy meeting new people?	0.3769
15 Can you usually let yourself go and enjoy yourself at a lively party?	0.5395
19 Do you usually take the initiative in making new friends?	0.4355
23 Can you easily get some life into a rather dull party?	0.5075
27 Do you tend to keep in the background on social occasions?	0.6049
32 Do you like mixing with people?	0.4312
36 Do you like plenty of bustle and excitement around you?	0.4371
41 Are you mostly quiet when you are with other people?	0.6639
44 Do other people think of you as being very lively?	0.5564
48 Can you get a party going?	0.5080
<i>Neuroticism</i>	
1 Does your mood often go up and down?	0.5197
5 Do you ever feel 'just miserable' for no reason?	0.4077
9 Are you an irritable person	0.4061
13 Are your feelings easily hurt?	0.3963
17 Do you often feel 'fed-up'?	0.4935
21 Would you call yourself a nervous person?	0.4134
25 Are you a worrier?	0.5247
30 Would you call yourself tense or 'highly strung'?	0.5318
34 Do you worry too long after an embarrassing experience?	0.2991
38 Do you suffer from 'nerves'?	0.5560
42 Do you often feel lonely?	0.4639
46 Are you often troubled about feelings of guilt?	0.4773
<i>Lie scale</i>	
4 If you say you will do something, do you always keep your promise no matter how inconvenient it might be?	0.1896
8 Were you ever greedy by helping yourself to more than your share of anything?	0.3711
12 Have you ever blamed someone for doing something you knew was really your fault?	0.2998
16 Are <i>all</i> your habits good and desirable ones?	0.2005
20 Have you ever taken anything (even a pin or button) that belonged to someone else?	0.2911
24 Have you ever broken or lost something belonging to someone else?	0.3821
29 Have you ever said anything bad or nasty about anyone?	0.1491
33 As a child were you every cheeky to your parents?	0.3006
37 Have you ever cheated at a game?	0.1788
40 Have you ever taken advantage of someone?	0.3869
45 Do you always practice what you preach?	0.3732
47 Do you sometimes put off until tomorrow what you ought to do today?	0.1883
<i>Psychoticism</i>	
2 Do you take much notice of what people think?	0.1639

Table 1 continued

	<i>r</i>
6 Would being in debt worry you?	0.0457
10 Would you take drugs which may have strange or dangerous effects?	0.1632
14 Do you prefer to go your own way rather than act by the rules?	0.2649
18 Do good manners and cleanliness matter much to you?	0.2579
22 Do you think marriage is old-fashioned and should be done away with?	0.1403
26 Do you enjoy co-operating with others?	0.0596
28 Does it worry you if you know there are mistakes in your work?	0.0711
31 Do you think people spend too much time safeguarding their future with savings and insurance?	0.1301
35 Do you try not to be rude to people?	0.1708
39 Would you like other people to be afraid of you?	0.1632
43 Is it better to follow society's rules than go your own way?	0.2120

CONCLUSION

Both the extraversion and the neuroticism scales of the German translation of the EPQR-S achieved satisfactory alpha coefficients well in excess of 0.7, the level recommended by Kline (1993). The lie scale almost reached Kline's criterion of 0.7. The psychoticism scale, however, performed poorly with an alpha coefficient of only 0.42.

On the basis of these data the German translations of the extraversion, neuroticism and lie scales of the EPQR-S can be commended for further use. At the same time these data emphasise the need for further research and development to produce a more reliable short index of psychoticism.

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