A Spanish Adaptation of the Aggression Questionnaire-Refined: Preliminary results

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The measurement of aggressiveness and the prediction of aggression has become a relevant research and applied topic in Psychology. There have been many attempts in order to get a fast and reliable tool to measure aggressiveness. Buss and Durkee started the pathway, and recently Bryant and Smith developed a tool with an enormous potential, a fast-applicable, reliable and valid test. However, these tools are often developed within English-speaking contexts.

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Within the Spanish-speaking context, to our knowledge, only two studies have participated. The reader is referred to the original source for further details on

1. INTRODUCTION

Why is important the measurement of aggression?

Aggressiveness is a psychological topic of particular relevance in forensic and clinical psychology. It is based on the study of personality characteristics that, being aggressive, are important in disorders of conduct, such as oppositional defiant disorder (DSM-IV), and in the presence or absence of psychopathological disorders in the offender, e.g. psychopaths (Birk and Quinsey, 2004). Moreover, in these contexts, the nature of the assessed individual often restricts the use of self-reported measure, due to various factors (reading limitations, time restraints, etc.), so the existence of a short and easily-applicable self-reported measure would help those technicians who work in the fields mentioned above.

A brief review of the attempts to achieve it.

In order to achieve a good self-report measure of aggression, many researchers have developed their own questionnaires. In 1957, Buss and Durkee developed the Buss-Durkee Hostility Inventory (Buss and Durkee, 1957), a self-rated questionnaire which is composed of 30 items. The test has become one of the required tools in any research on aggression, although its psychometric limitations. Based on the BHS, Buss and Perry refined it to improve its psychometrical properties, and the result was the Aggression Questionnaire, which measure four aspects of aggression: physical aggression, verbal aggression, hostility, and anger (Buss and Perry, 1992). In 2001, Bryant and Smith had been over this topic and they developed a shorter form of the Aggression Questionnaire (Bryant and Smith, 2001). This shorter form comprises 12 items stems from Buss and Perry’s Aggression Questionnaire, less than half of the original 30 items test. This improvement made possible to have a short and reliable test available in years. Despite this, other researchers have developed new versions of the AQ, redefined it to improve its psychometrical properties, and the result was the Aggression Questionnaire refined (Bryant & Smith, 2001). This shorter form comprises 12 items stems from Buss and Perry’s Aggression Questionnaire, less than half of the original 30 items test. This improvement made possible to have a short and reliable test available in years.

2. AIM

To adapt the refined version of the Aggression Questionnaire to the Spanish Language maintaining its original four factor structure and its good psychometric properties compared to the American version.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Subjects

In order to compare the psychometric properties of the Spanish and American versions of the AQ-R, we used samples. The Spanish sample consisted of 1365 participants (527 women and 855 men, with the gender of 855 subjects missing). The mean age for the group was 33.99 years (SD = 12.56). The sample included participants from the Catalan University of Vic and from the University of Barcelona (Bryant and Smith, 2001). This consists of undergraduate students at a private Catholic University where the authors conducted the research. The reader is referred to the original source for further details on the sample.

4. RESULTS

The Aggression Questionnaire

It is composed by 12 items divided in 4 subscales: Anger, Hostility, Verbal Aggression and Physical Aggression; and is a total score. Respondents may answer by means of a Likert-like scale of 5 options ranged from “never” to “always”.

Procedure

The different models fitted in this study were estimated via maximum likelihood estimation. The goodness of fit was assessed using standard fit indices: chi-square, RMSEA (Steiger, 1990), as a measure of discrepancy due to the different models, and CFI (Satorra-Bentler, 1994) as the normed fit index. Cochran (1954) as the comparative fit index. The adequacy of the four factor model of AQ American version was compared to our Spanish adaptation.

Table 1. Mean, standard deviations, reliability coefficients (alpha) and intercorrelations among the scales of the Aggression Questionnaire refined version

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>VA</th>
<th>HO</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>ANG</th>
<th>VA</th>
<th>HO</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>ANG</th>
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<tr>
<td>VA</td>
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<td>0.71</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HO</td>
<td>5.67</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>4.08</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>5.67</td>
<td>0.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANG</td>
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5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Using covariance structure analysis, we have compared the adequacy of the four factor structure of AQ refined (Bryant & Smith, 2001) on a Spanish adaptation of the questionnaire. Hence, although we expected, this model does not fit the data from neither country society. The RMSEA suggests it provides a reasonably close approximation to the data from both countries. When comparing our model to others published in Spanish language (Andreu-Rodríguez & co-workers, 2002), the intercorrelations between factors are very similar with the same goodness of fit.

The reliability of AQ scales in the Spanish sample ranged from moderate to high, and although it is lower than reported by various authors (Andreu et al., 1995; Bryant & Smith, 2001). Hence, 1995 measuring, comparing both the refined version and the long version of AQ (Buss & Perry, 1992). The reliability of our adaptation is quite similar to those reported by Andreu-Rodriguez and co-workers (Andreu-Rodriguez et al., 2002); and Higher to those reported by Garcia-León’s group (Garcia-León et al., 2002). It must be outlined that these previous studies in Spanish language worked with the 20-item version of AQ, and ours, Brazilian Bryant and Smith (2001) just 12.

So, it makes our instrument a fast and reliable tool in order to assess aggressiveness, and it is precisely the main strength of AQ refined version, its shortness, which allow it to be used in contexts where time long survey tools can not be applied, whether in clinical or forensic context.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was partially supported by grants BSIDC03-0807 (Albert Maydeu-Olivares, PI) and SEC2001-0583-D02 (Antoni Andrés-Pueyo, PI) both from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology.

7. REFERENCES