

The MMPI-2 Type A, Anger Content, and Cynicism Scales in Indonesian recent graduates of high school

Abstract

Three components of type A behavior, namely hostility, time urgency, and competitiveness are incorporated in the MMPI-2 Type A scale. MMPI-2 also provides the Anger Content and Cynicism scales to assess two contents which are closely related to type A concept. The main objective of this study was to collect basic data concerning standard values for the scores on the MMPI-2 Type A, Anger Content, and Cynicism scales in Indonesian late adolescents and young adults.

Fifty male and 48 female respondents were recruited consecutively among the newly graduates of high school who were enrolling as new students of University of Gunadarma, Jakarta, in 2001. The respondents underwent a general medical examination, self-administration of a questionnaire concerning sociodemographic variables, and a personality assessment comprising the MMPI-2 L (Lie), Type A, Anger Content, and Cynicism scales in Indonesian. Item analyses of the L and Type A scales were performed to assess whether their contents were perceived as gender-related by the respondents.

The mean raw score on the L scale was substantially high (7.02; SD: 2.55). For further analyses, respondents whose raw scores on the L scale were greater than the third quartile of its distribution were excluded, yielding to selected sample including 43 male and 37 female respondents. In the selected sample, the mean raw score on the Type A scale was 9.79 (95% CI: 8.83-10.75) for male and 10.65 (95% CI: 9.49-11.81) for female respondents; the Anger Content scale: 6.79 (95% CI: 5.80-7.78) for male and 7.65 (95% CI: 6.64-8.66) for female respondents; and the Cynicism scale: 14.37 (95% CI: 13.35-15.40) for male and 13.57 (95% CI: 12.23-14.90) for female respondents, all differences between the two gender groups were not significant. In the item analysis of the Type A scale, the odds ratios of item No. 7, No. 9, No. 14, and No. 17 were significantly differed from unity.

High raw scores on the L scale are obtained, indicating the presence of faking good in a great portion of the respondents, however other interpretations are still probable. The mean raw score on the TPA scale for male respondents was higher than that in the MMPI Restandardization Project. Some references in the items of the MMPI-2 scales may not be in accord with Indonesian contemporary standards, and some content modifications should be considered in their process of translation into Indonesian.

Keywords: MMPI, type A behavior, anger, cynicism, personality

Abbreviations: MMPI Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, TPA type A behavior, ANG anger content, CYN cynicism, CHD coronary heart disease, SMU-IPA General High School-Natural Sciences Division, SMU-IPS General High School-Social Sciences Division, SMK Vocational High School, PNS Indonesian government official, TNI Indonesian National Army

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