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THE JUNIOR EYSENCK PERSONALITY QUESTIONNAIRE IN THAILAND*

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The Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) and its version for children and adolescents, the Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (JEPQ)¹ have been constructed to measure what are claimed to be three of the most important personality dimensions isolated by factor analysis, extraversion (E), neuroticism (N), and Psychoticism (P) or tough-mindedness, together with a measure of social desirability (L). The first three variables are important for cross-cultural studies: because they are claimed² to be largely hereditarily determined since they are related, respectively, to the arousability of the central nervous system, to the lability of the autonomic nervous system, and, more tentatively, to the androgen level of the individual. Furthermore, these variables as measured by the tests or by their predecessors which are highly similar—the Eysenck Personality Inventory and its junior version—have been shown to be valid in a variety of cultures, although not all items are equally efficient.³ The present writers have shown that the EPQ could be used in Thailand.⁴

The present investigation was designed to discover whether the JEPQ could be used in Thailand, thus allowing questionnaire measurement of the personality of Thai children and cross-cultural comparison. The JEPQ was back-translated into Thai and administered to 141 children (69 male; 72 female; mean age 15.7 years) in five schools in Bangkok. Rapport was good and there were no problems in completing the test. Two forms of analysis were used to investigate the efficiency of the test: classical item analysis, in which the biserial correlations of each item with its total score and the

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¹ Eysenck, H. J., & Eysenck, S. B. G. *The Eysenck Personality Questionnaire*. London: Hodder & Stroughton, 1975.

² Eysenck, H. J., & Eysenck, S. B. G. *Psychoticism as a Dimension of Personality*. London: Hodder & Stroughton, 1975.

³ Honess, T., & Kline, P. The Use of the E.P.I. and J.E.P.I. in Uganda. *Brit. J. Soc. Clin. Psychol.*, 1974, 13, 96-98.

⁴ Kline, P., Barrett, P., & Svasti-Xuto, B. Personality of Thai students. *J. Soc. Psychol.*, 1981, 114, 23-34.

proportions putting the keyed response were computed, and interitem correlations were subjected to an oblique, simple-structure factor analysis.

The results were unexpected. Although the item analyses indicated that most of the items in each scale were homogenous and that the scale could be used with great caution with Bangkok children, the factor analyses showed that the items in each scale did not load up on a single factor, as they were designed to do, and as did the items in the EPQ in Thailand.⁴ In the item analysis only two L items, three E items, one N item, and two P items failed to reach the .01 level of significance. In the factor analysis nine L items, 12 E items, and 11 P items failed to load their respective factors. Factor N was satisfactory, since only one item failed, the one that failed the item analysis, but one E and one L item loaded this factor. Possibly the factor structure was affected (relative to the EPQ) by the fact that younger Ss were less insightful. From this it must be concluded that the JEPQ scales, although homogenous in Thailand, are not working efficiently there, with the possible exception of N, and any results are not properly comparable with those derived from cultures in which the test is valid. The JEPQ is not, therefore, a suitable test for the cross-cultural study of the personality of Thai children.

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