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Abstract

Culturally comparative studies about test anxiety often use adaptations of the two-dimensional Test Anxiety Inventory (TAI; Spielberger, 1980). To capture multiple facets of test anxiety, however, no multidimensional instrument with transcultural validity exists. In response, the current study reports on the psychometric development of a cross-validated English version of the four-dimensional TAI-G, which had been introduced as an extended German adaptation of the TAI (Hodapp, 1991, 1996)?

First year university students of a multi-ethnic South African sample (N=102) were compared with German equivalents (N=183) controlling for relevant background variables. Parallel versions of the TAI-G in English and German were given. Multigroup confirmatory factor models were conducted to examine structural and parametric invariance. To assess criterion validity, transculturally relevant correlates of test anxiety were captured.

Indicating high construct validity, a second-order model of test anxiety fits the data well for both samples. Of the four primary factors, three variances were found to be equal and invariant across samples with all subscales having excellent reliabilities. Associations with test anxiety correlates suggested high criterion validity. Scale structure and psychometric properties of the English TAI-G replicated findings of German samples suggesting transcultural applicability of the measure. Introducing its English adaptation, thus a valid and reliable instrument for cross-cultural research in test anxiety is at hand.