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Abstracts

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The Chinese Version of the Gold-MSI: Adaptation and Validation of an Inventory for the Measurement of Musicality in a Taiwanese Sample

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Background

The Gold-MSI (Goldsmiths Musical Sophistication Index) includes one self-report questionnaire and four music tests which altogether measure musical ability, attitudes toward music, and music-related behaviors in the general population (Müllensiefen, Gingras, Musil, & Stewart, 2014). The questionnaire contains 39 items that comprise five subscales and one general factor. Previous studies showed that the inventory demonstrates good reliability and validity, and its factor structure could be consistently replicated (Fiedler & Müllensiefen, 2015; Schaal, Bauer, & Müllensiefen, 2014). However, these findings emerged from samples within the European cultural region. The question of its generalizability for into Far Eastern cultures remains open.

Aims

The current study aimed to investigate the psychometric qualities of the Chinese Gold-MSI questionnaire using a Taiwanese sample by examining its factor structure, reliability and validity.

Method

The translation of the Gold-MSI followed the ITC Guidelines for Translating and Adapting Tests (International Test Commission, 2017). To create the first draft, we obtained three independent translations by professional translators. Discrepancies were discussed with an expert for in psychological testing. In the next step, it was translated back into English by a native speaker. Two experts then compared the backward translation with the original questionnaire, resulting in the second draft. Thereafter, six Taiwanese evaluated the readability of all the items' readability. Accordingly, we improved the syntactic quality of two items' syntactic quality. From April to July 2017, we administered the Chinese Gold-MSI along with two music tests from the Gold-MSI test battery (the Melodic Memory Task and the Beat Alignment Perception Task) and the Musical Intelligence subscale (Chou, 2006) in an online survey. Additionally, participants were invited for a retest after two weeks. In all, 1,065 and 160 valid responses returned for the first and second inquiry, respectively.

Results

First, the confirmatory factor analysis showed that the original factor structure could be replicated (SRMR = 0.053, CFI = 0.886). Second, the values of Cronbach's α and test-retest reliability coefficients (Pearson's r) were between .74 and .90 as well as .77 and .92, respectively, supporting the questionnaire's good reliability. Third, the convergent validity could be corroborated by the correlation between the General Musical Sophistication factor and the Musical Intelligence subscale ($r = .78$).

Conclusions

The Chinese Gold-MSI possesses good psychometric qualities, and its factor structure remains invariant. Hence, the present study provides a solid foundation for further intercultural inquiries in the field of musical development.

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