



## Validation of the French version of the EPQ-Junior

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### Abstract

The objective of the present paper was to validate a French version of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Junior (EPQ-J), which, in accordance with the corresponding questionnaire for adults, was postulated to have a four-factor structure including Neuroticism, Extraversion, Psychoticism and a Lie Scale. We tested the factor structure and internal reliability of the French translation in a sample of 465 school children (mean age: 12 years) recruited from the general population. Confirmatory factor analysis revealed the original orthogonal four-factor structure to have an unsatisfactory fit. However, by removing the constraint of orthogonality, a satisfactory fit could be achieved. Internal reliability estimates were 0.84 for Neuroticism, 0.74 for both Extraversion and the Lie scale and 0.69 for Psychoticism. These results based on a sample of young adolescents provide evidence for the validity of the French translation and further support for the stability of the four major personality dimensions across the lifespan.

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## 1. Introduction

Eysenck postulated the P-E-N model to describe the three major dimensions of personality (Eysenck, 1991; Eysenck, 1994; Eysenck, Barrett, Wilson, & Jackson, 1992; Eysenck & Eysenck, 1991). Neuroticism (N) was defined as a dispositional variable predisposing a person to develop neurotic symptoms under stress. However, “a high-N score is not *eo ipso* neurotic” (Eysenck, 1994, p. 152). Extraversion (E) is composed of traits such as sociability, activity, sensation-seeking, assertiveness and venturesomeness. Although the definitions of N and E have not been questioned, Psychoticism (P) has neither been well accepted nor well established (e.g. Costa & McCrae, 1995). P was originally defined as “a continuous dispositional variable underlying possible psychotic breakdown” (Eysenck, 1994, p. 153). However, other authors (Loo & Shiomi, 1983; Ray & Bozek, 1981) have suggested that P is better defined as toughmindedness. Claridge (1986) even associated P with antisocial behavior. A ten-year longitudinal study (Chapman, Chapman, & Kwapil, 1994) showed no association between the initial score on the P Scale and the risk of further development of psychotic disorders. Eysenck and Eysenck (1991) considered that P predisposes a person to the development of psychiatric abnormalities. However, only a very small proportion of people with high P scores are likely to develop psychosis.

Eysenck’s scales for the measurement of personality dimensions were progressively refined for use with adults between 1952 (MMQ: Eysenck, 1952) and 1991 (EPS: Eysenck & Eysenck, 1991). The scales have been used in hundreds of studies (Barrett & Eysenck, 1984; Barrett, Petrides, Eysenck, & Eysenck, 1998; Eysenck, 1983; van Hemert, van de Vijver, Poortinga, & Georgas, 2002).

Moreover, for two of these instruments designed for use in adults, specific versions for children and adolescents (aged 7 to 17 years) were developed, i.e. the Eysenck Personality Inventory Junior (Eysenck, 1965) and the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Junior (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975). In analogy to the corresponding adult instrument, the EPQ-J measures the three personality dimensions of N, E and P. As the P scale of the EPQ-J revealed low internal reliability and a distribution skewed to the right, Corulla (1990) established a revised scale (EPQR-J) with higher internal reliability and a distribution closer to normality. The EPQ-J also includes a fourth scale, referred to as the Lie scale (L), which was introduced into the Eysenckian instruments in 1964 (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1964). The intention of the originators was not so much to correct personality scale scores for ‘faking’ or other test-taking attitudes, but rather to measure the children’s tendency to deceive (Eysenck, Nias, & Eysenck, 1971). Nonetheless, it is now well established that the Lie scale can have several interpretations (Jackson & Francis, 1999). Under certain conditions (Eysenck, Eysenck, & Shaw, 1974), it can measure a tendency to dissimulate, but the scale alone does not allow to detect an attempt at dissimulation. The lie scale can also be interpreted as a dimension of personality *per se* (Ahern, Johnson, Wilson, McClearn, & Vandenberg, 1982; Francis, 1991; Furnham, 1986; McCrae & Costa, 1983) assessing conformity/social consent or lack of self-insight/naivety.

The original English version was subject to considerable validation efforts in several countries: New Zealand (Saklofske & Eysenck, 1978), Canada (Eysenck & Saklofske, 1983), United States (Eysenck & Jamison, 1986), Northern Ireland (Eysenck & Kay, 1986), Singapore (Eysenck & Long, 1986), and Zimbabwe (Wilson, Mundy-Castle, & Greenspan, 1988). Moreover, the EPQ-J has been translated into many languages: Japanese (Iwawaki, Eysenck, & Eysenck, 1980), Hungarian (Eysenck, Kozeki, & Gellenne, 1980), Danish (Nyborg, Eysenck, & Kroll, 1982), Greek

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